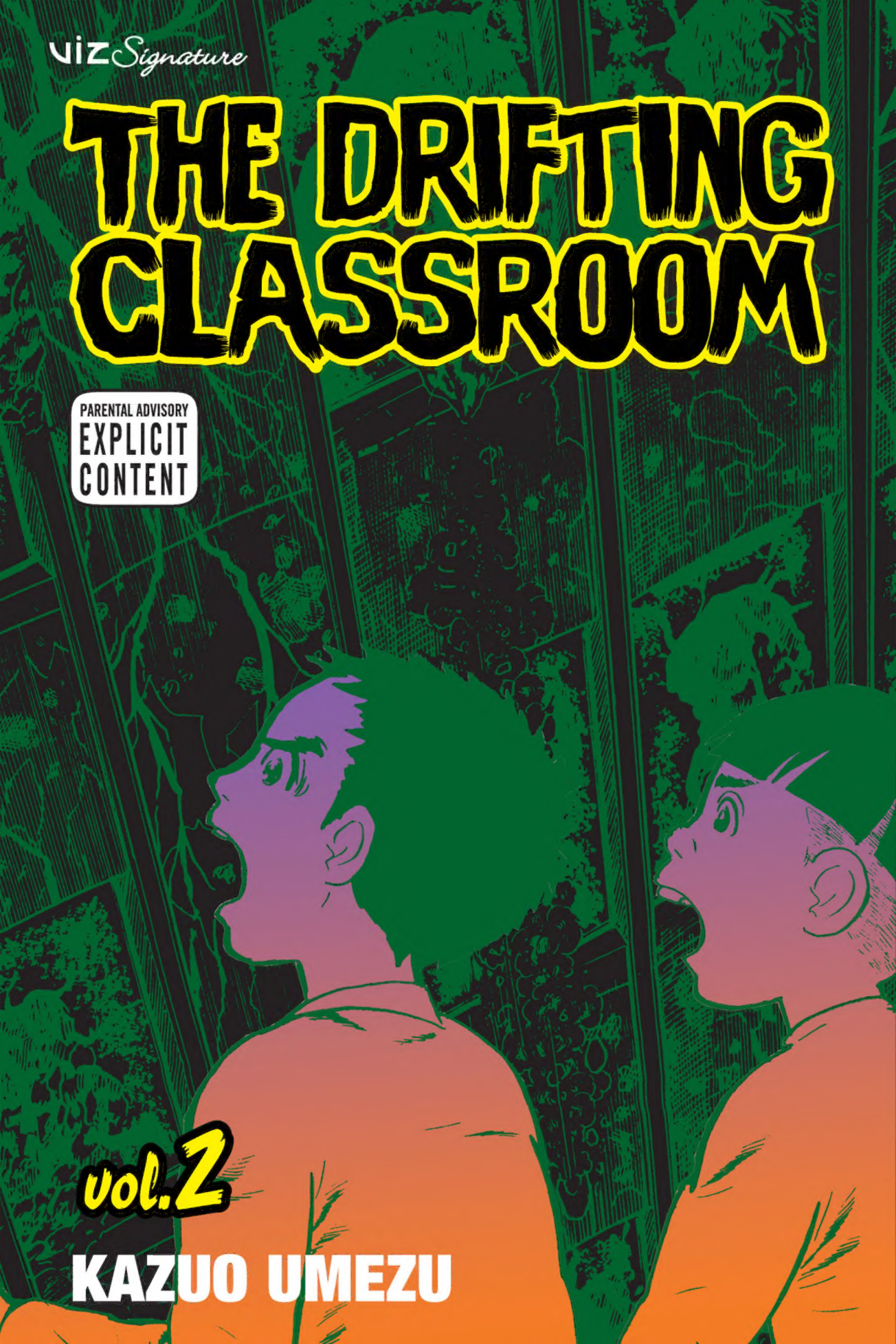
viz Signature

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT



vol. 2

KAZUO UMEZU

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1936, Kazuo Umezu is Japan's most respected and influential horror manga artist. Umezu began his artistic career at the age of 18, creating stories for both *shôjo* (girls) and *shonen* (boys) manga magazines, and working in an amazingly diverse range of genres. In Japan he is most famous for the gag manga *Makoto-chan* (1971), but his most ambitious works are horror and science fiction, including *The Drifting Classroom* (1972-1974), *My Name is Shingo* (1982-1986), *The Left Hand of God, the Right Hand of the Devil* (1986-1989) and *Fourteen* (1990-1995). His works have been adapted into anime and live-action films.

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM

vol. 2

KAZUO UMEZU

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM
Vol. 2

STORY AND ART BY KAZUO UMEZU

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. Contains strong language and graphic violence.

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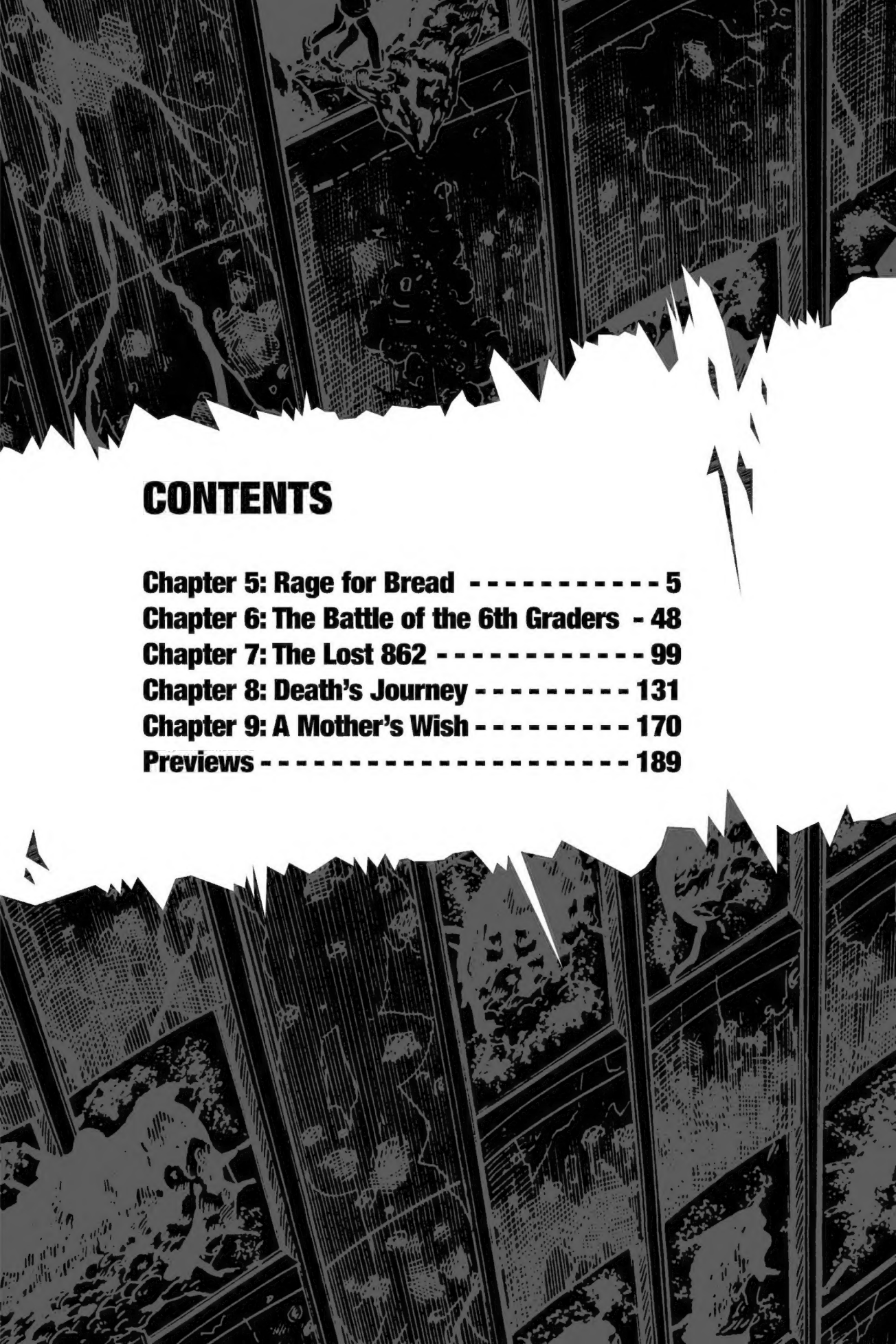


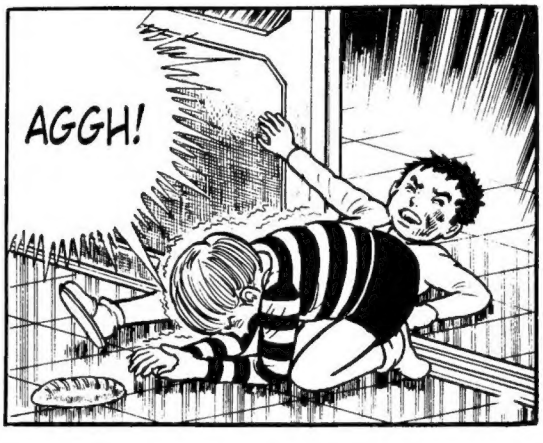
CONTENTS

Chapter 5: Rage for Bread - - - - - - - - - - - - 5
Chapter 6: The Battle of the 6th Graders - 48
Chapter 7: The Lost 862 - - - - - - - - - - - - - 99
Chapter 8: Death's Journey - - - - - - - - - - 131
Chapter 9: A Mother's Wish - - - - - - - - - - 170
Previews - 189

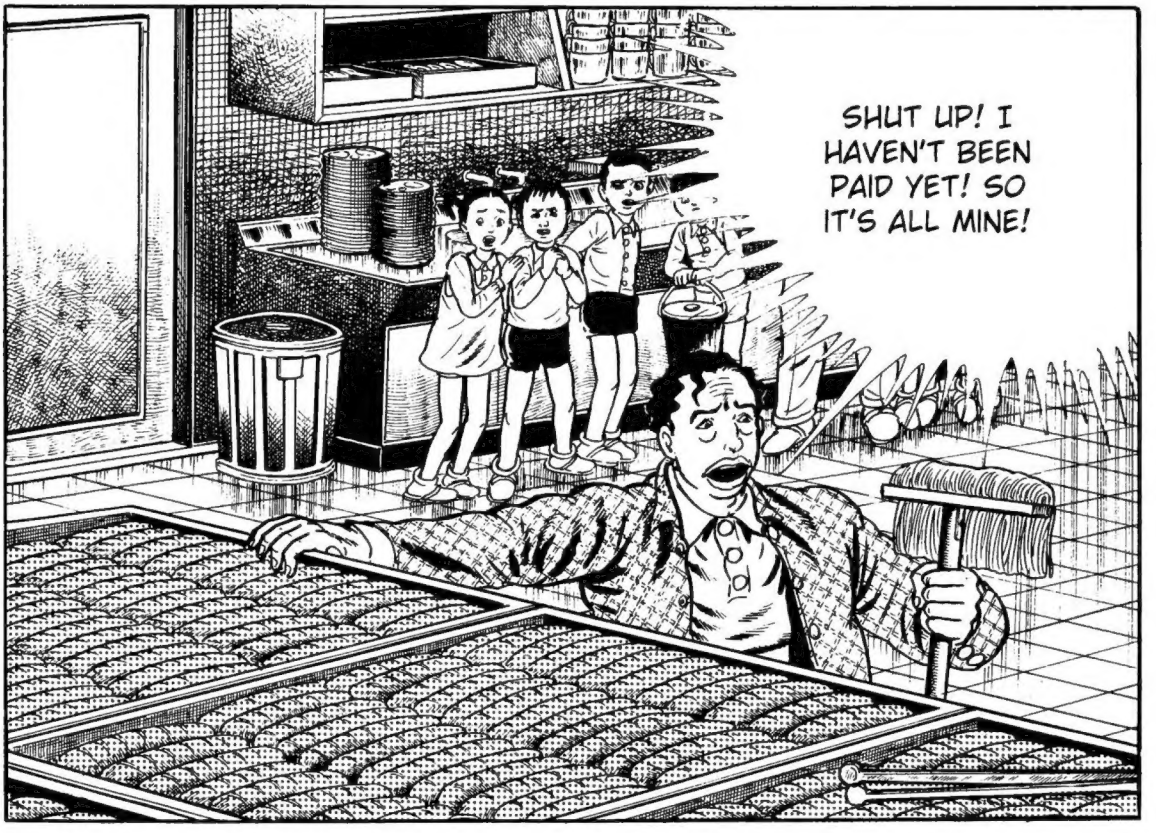
CHAPTER 5:
RAGE FOR BREAD

WHAK

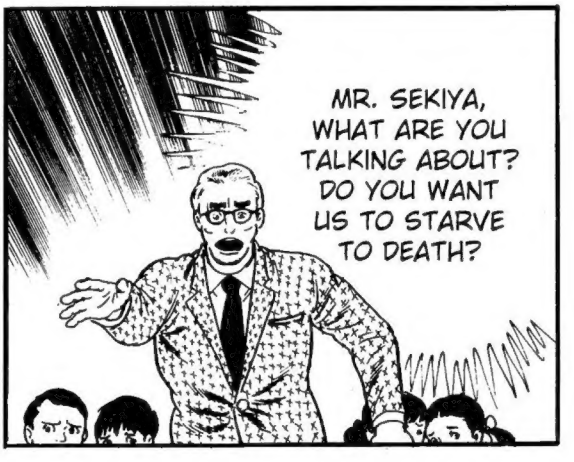
LISTEN UP! THIS BREAD IS MINE!


AGGH!

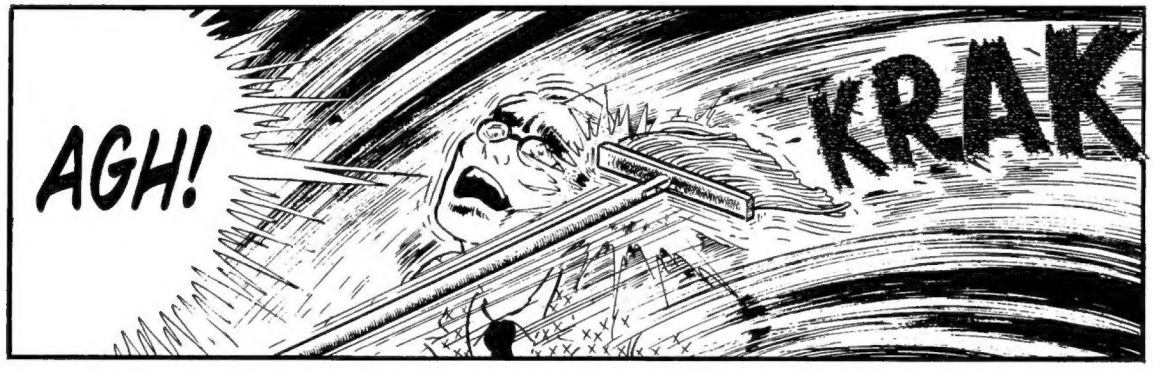
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT'S OUR LUNCHES!


SHUT UP! I HAVEN'T BEEN PAID YET! SO IT'S ALL MINE!

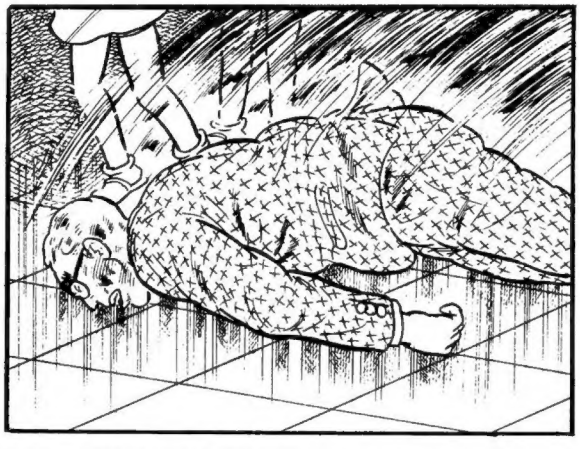
WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER UNTIL WE'RE RESCUED!
EVEN IF IT WAS YOURS, YOU CAN'T HOARD IT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW!

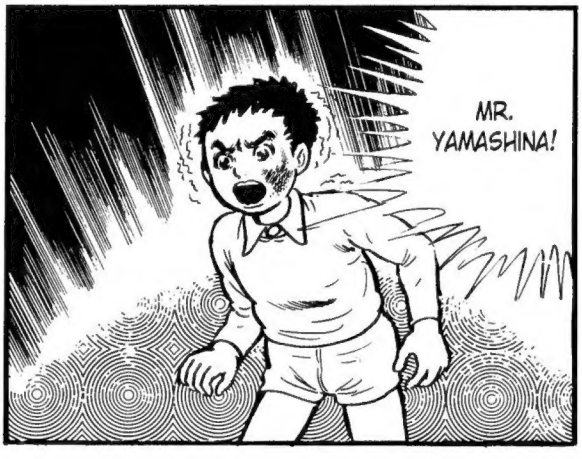

MR. SEKIYA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DO YOU WANT US TO STARVE TO DEATH?

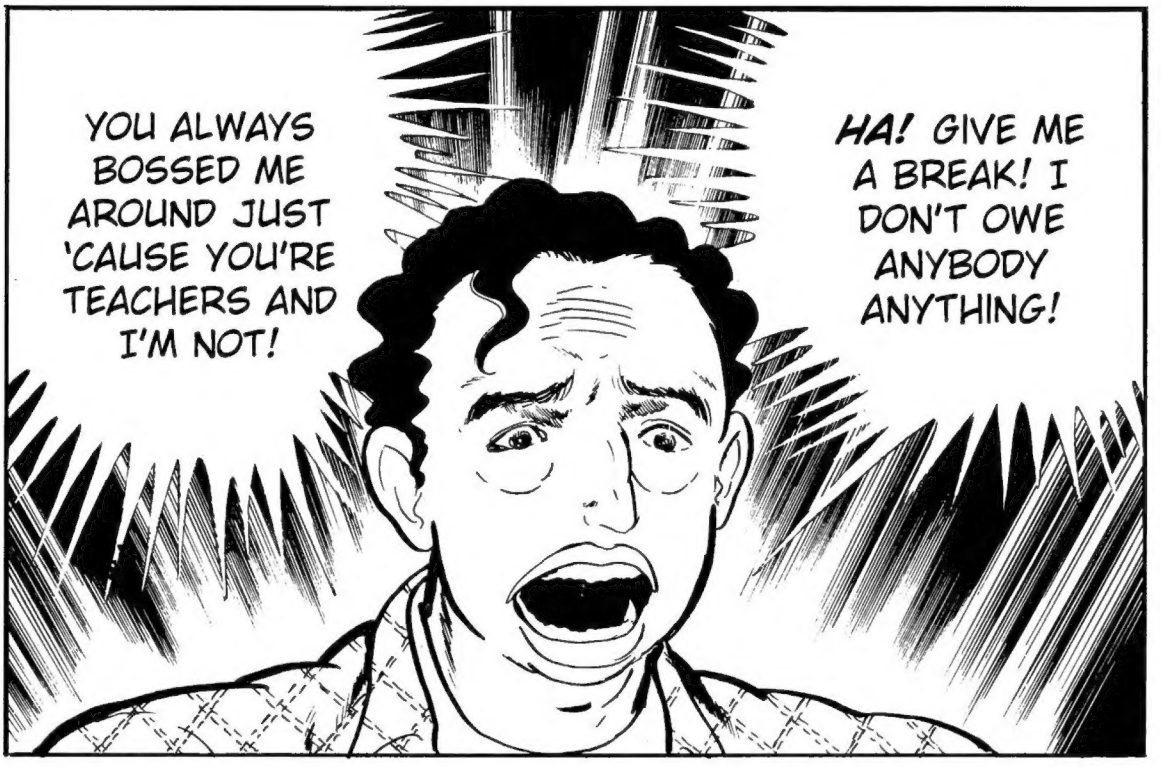
I WON'T EVEN GIVE YOU A CRUMB!
WSSH
SHUT UP!

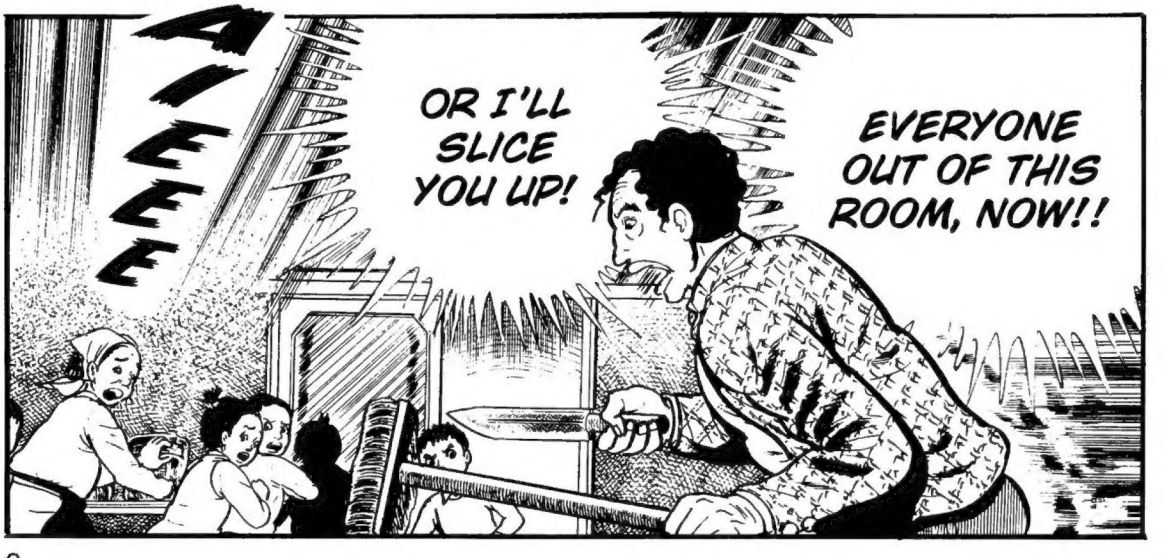

AGH!
KRAK

"WORK TOGETHER TILL WE'RE RESCUED"?
HA HA HA HA




MR. YAMASHINA!

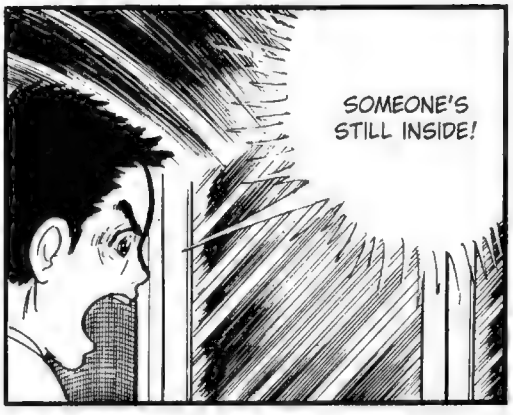

YOU ALWAYS BOSSED ME AROUND JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE TEACHERS AND I'M NOT!
HA! GIVE ME A BREAK! I DON'T OWE ANYBODY ANYTHING!


AIEEE
OR I'LL SLICE YOU UP!
EVERYONE OUT OF THIS ROOM, NOW!!

MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM I'LL KILL ANYONE WHO COMES NEAR THIS ROOM!
NOW GET OUT!!
OH!
AIEEE !!
AEEE!
SLAMM

LET ME OUT!

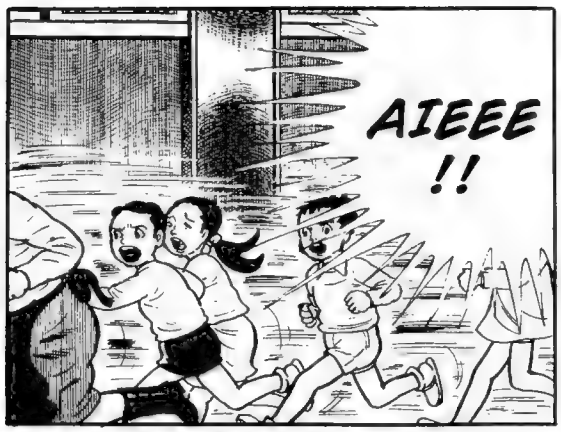
NOOO! HELP ME!


SOMEONE'S STILL INSIDE!

AGGH!
THUNK
SHUT UP!

AAHH!

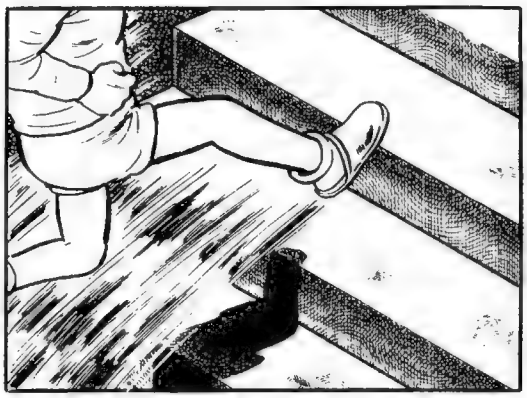
H-HEY! HEY?!

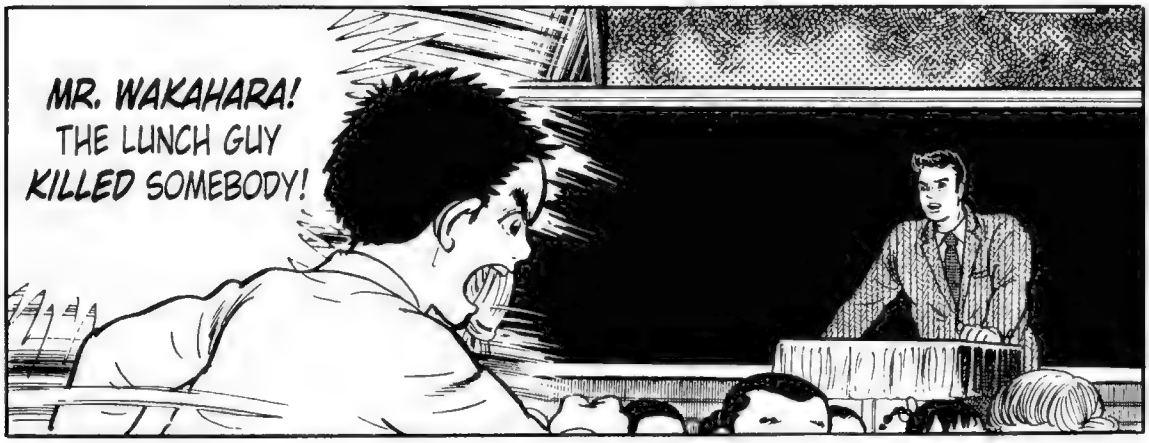

AIEEE !!

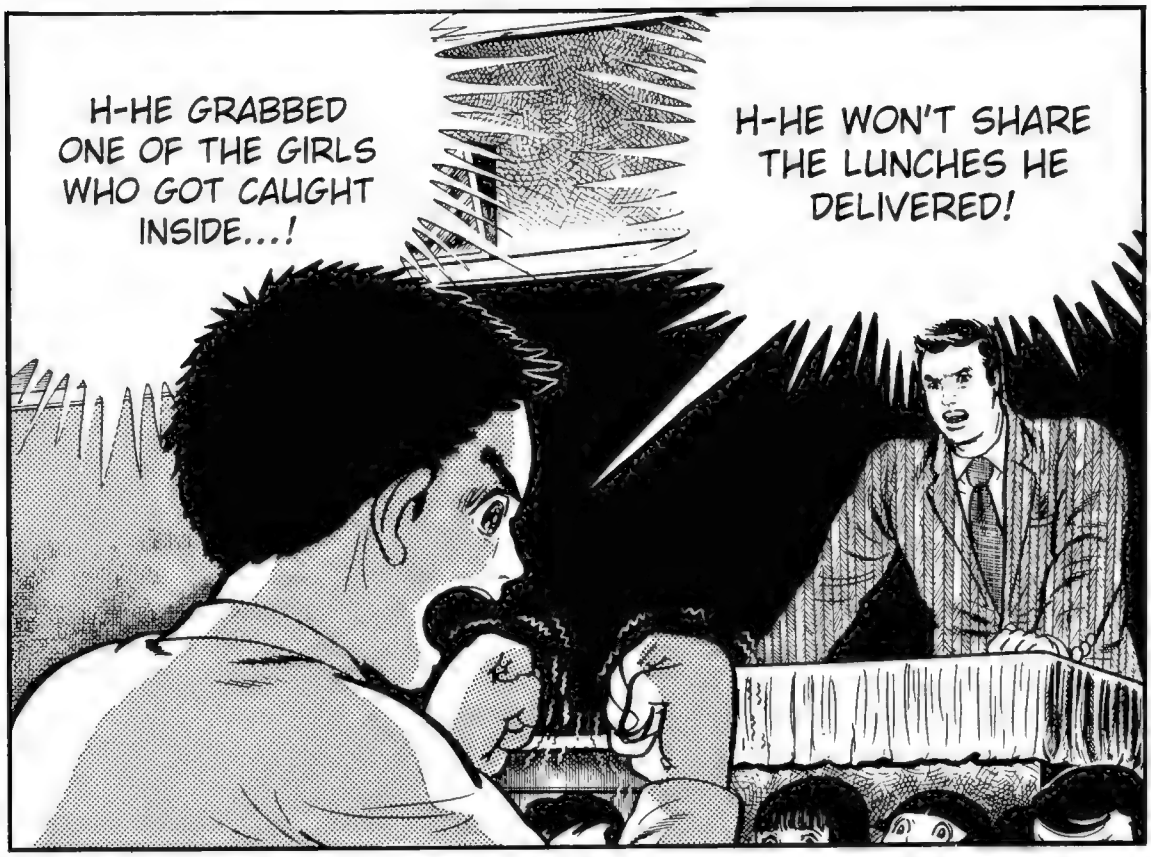
H-HE KILLED HER!!

MR. WAKAHARA !!

SHFF




MR. WAKAHARA! THE LUNCH GUY KILLED SOMEBODY!


H-HE GRABBED ONE OF THE GIRLS WHO GOT CAUGHT INSIDE...!
H-HE WON'T SHARE THE LUNCHES HE DELIVERED!

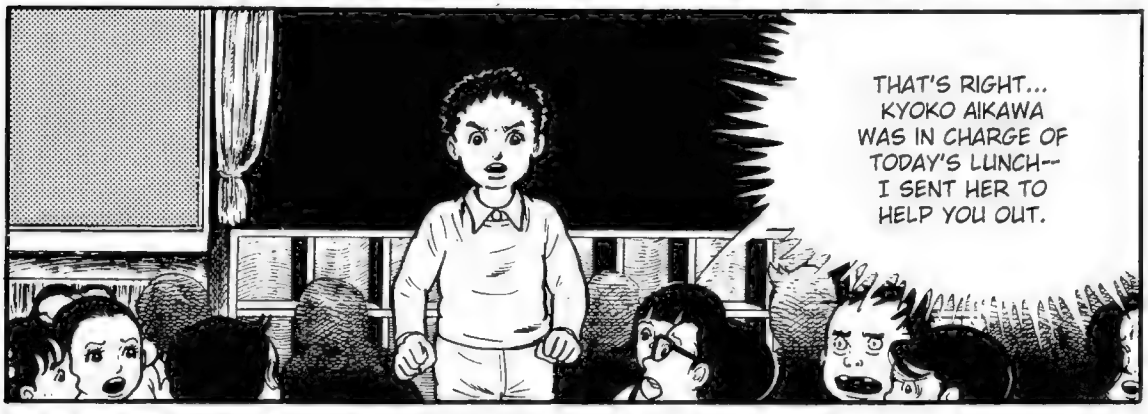
I-I THINK HE KILLED HER!

HE'S ALWAYS SO FRIENDLY!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

HE DID WHAT?!
HUH ?!

HUH? AIKAWA?

HOLD ON. WHERE'S AIKAWA!?


THAT'S RIGHT... KYOKO AIKAWA WAS IN CHARGE OF TODAY'S LUNCH-- I SENT HER TO HELP YOU OUT.

TH-THEN SHE MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO DIED!

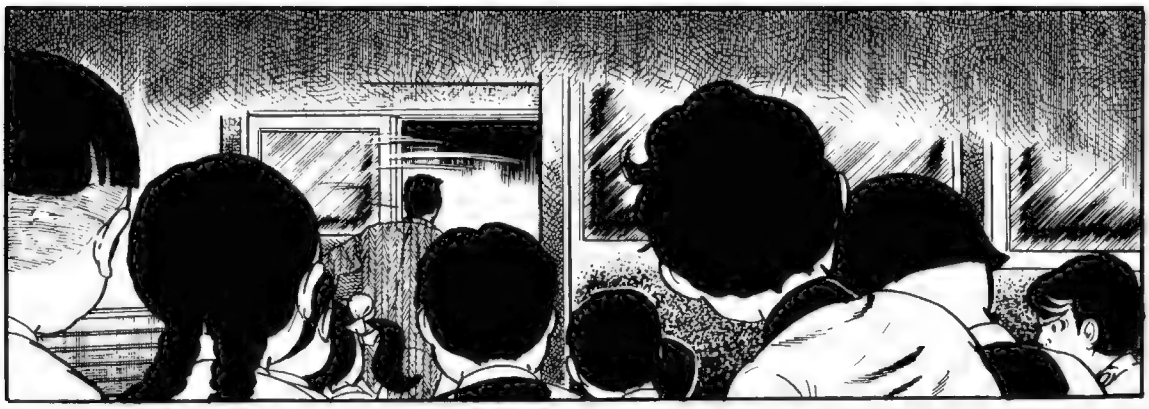
KLATA
KLATA
WHAT !?

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK!!

SHE WASN'T WITH US WHEN WE LEFT!

NO! I WANT YOU ALL TO STAY HERE!!

WE'LL GO TOO!!



THAT'S RIGHT. HE ALWAYS SMILES AND WAVES!
THE LUNCH GUY WOULDN'T DO THAT! HE'S SO NICE!

ARE YOU SURE HE DID IT?
YEAH, AND HE GAVE ME SOME BREAD ONCE.

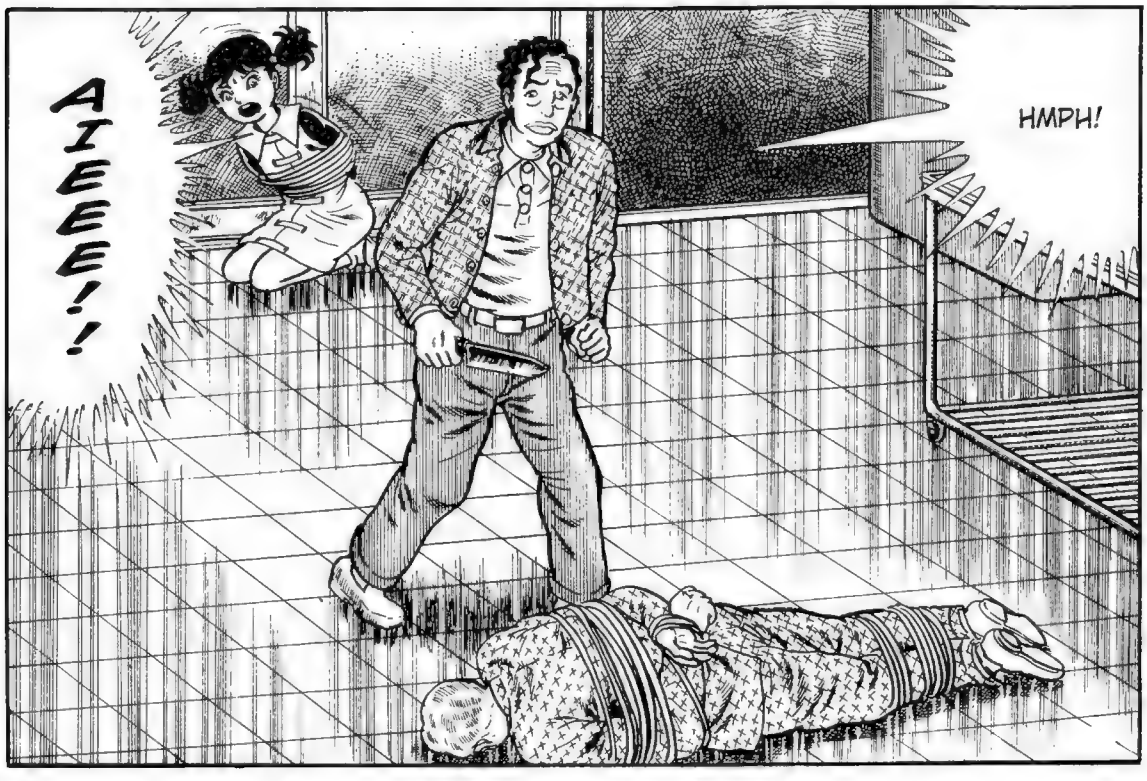
WHAT !?

YOU KNOW IF HE KEEPS THE BREAD TO HIMSELF WE'LL ALL STARVE TO DEATH!!
HE DID! IT'S TRUE!

PLUS, ALL THE FOOD IS IN THE KITCHEN! NOT JUST THE BREAD! HE'S GOT IT ALL!

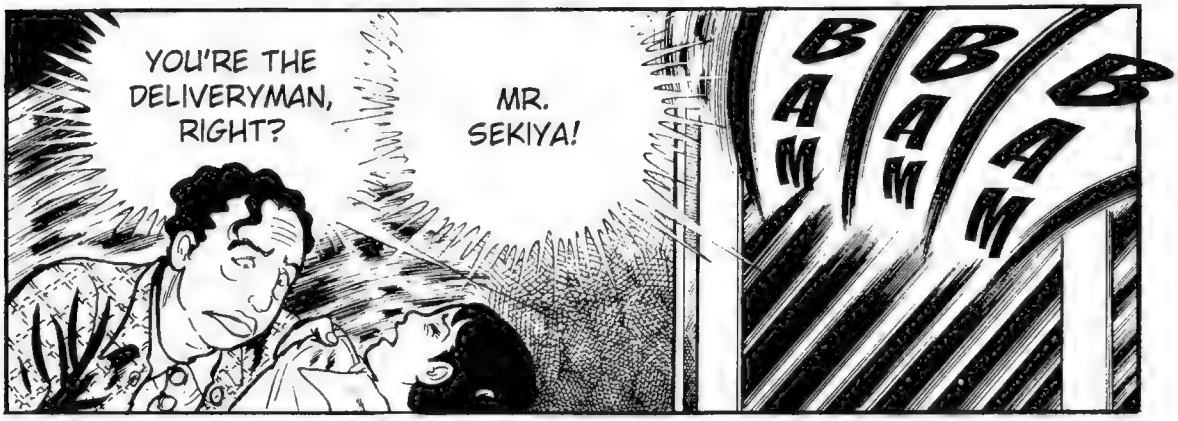
UGGH
...

AGGH!
THUMP


AIEEE!!
HMPH!

DO YOU WANT ME TO KNOCK YOU OUT AGAIN?!

SHUT UP!


YOU'RE THE DELIVERYMAN, RIGHT?
MR. SEKIYA!
BAAM
BAAM
BAAM

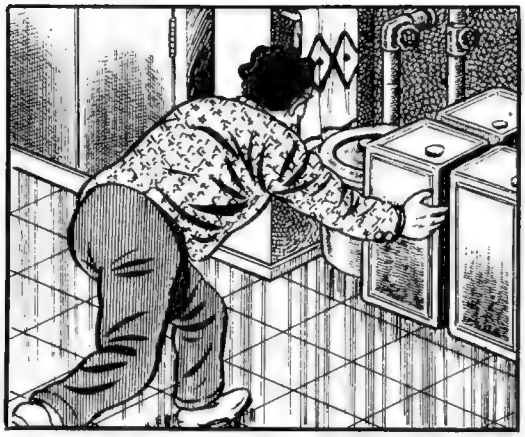
MR. WAKAHARA, I'M HERE!
KYOKO! ARE YOU IN THERE?

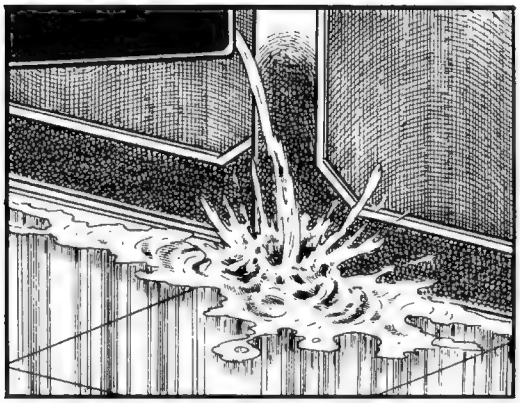
BBAAMM
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU! PLEASE!

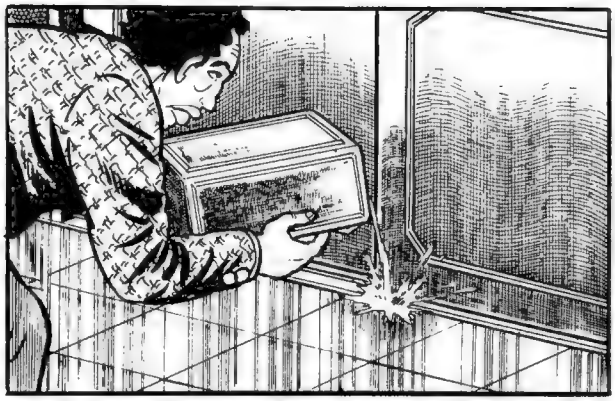
AIEE !!

S-SO YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! GOOD!

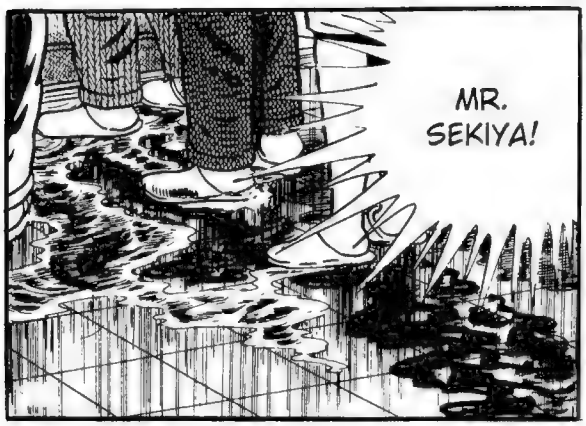
HMPH!







MR. SEKIYA!


MR. SEKIYA!

BAMM
BAMM
MR. SEKIYA, LET US IN! WE NEED TO TALK!

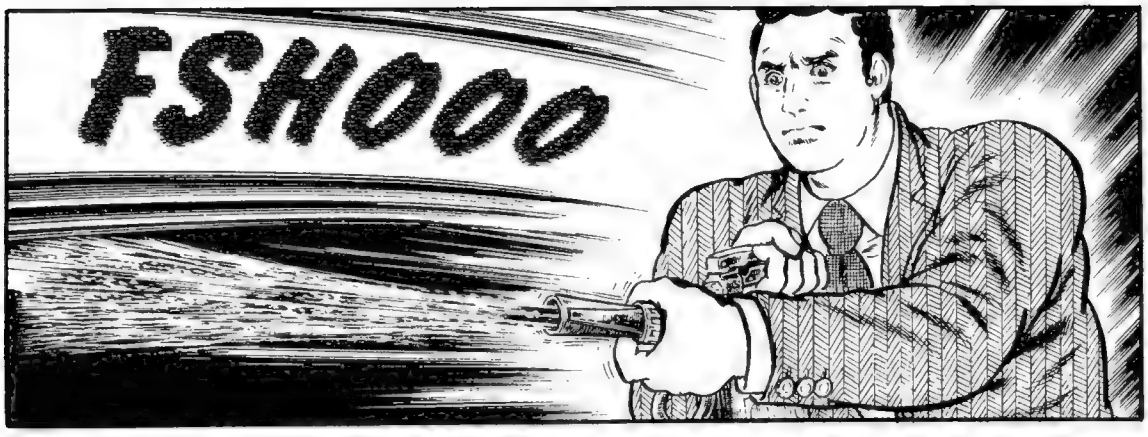
AGH!

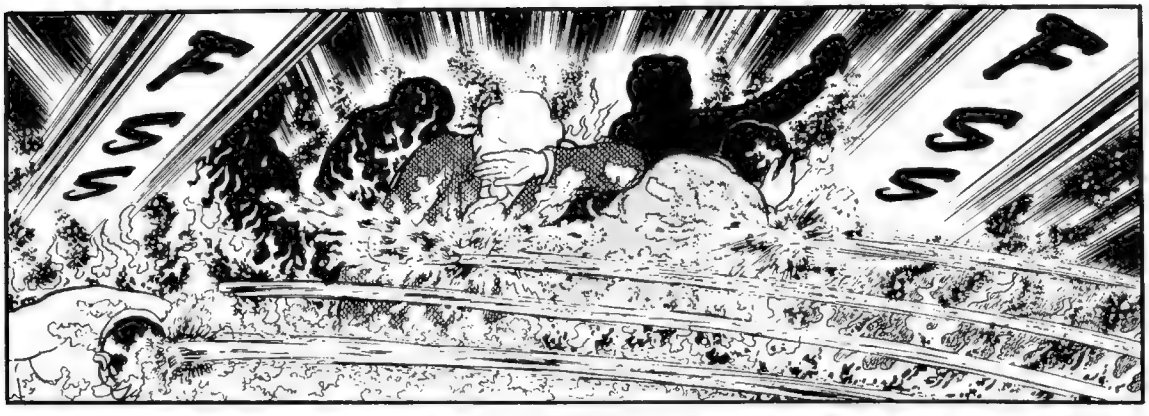
GYAA
!!

KRAKI
KRAKI
SYAAA!

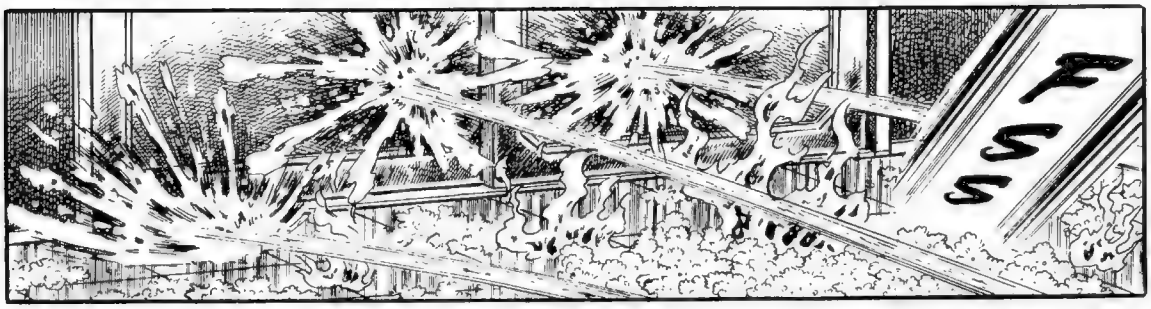
G-GET
A FIRE
EXTINGUISHER!

*SIGN=CAUTION: FIRE EXTINGUISHER


FSHOOO


FSSS
FSSS

FSSS
FSSS


FSSS

MR. WAKAHARA! YOUR FEET ARE ON FIRE!!
FSSS
FSSS

FSSS

NGGH
UGGH
ARE YOU OKAY?!

THUD

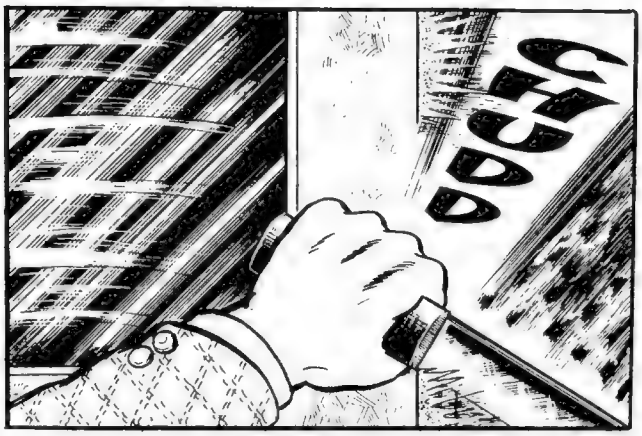
AND IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, I'LL KILL THE GIRL TOO!
LISTEN! I'LL KILL ANYONE WHO TRIES TO GET IN HERE!

KREEK

I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS SCHOOL NOW! YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS, OKAY?

OWW!
THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR TRYING TO PULL SOMETHING OVER ON ME!

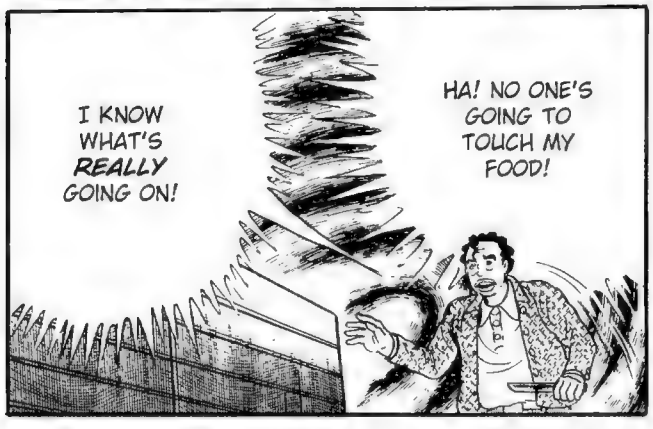
GOT THAT?!
ALL THE FOOD HERE IS MINE! TELL EVERYBODY!


DDSHD

BUT... MR. SEKIYA ...!

CHAK
CHAK

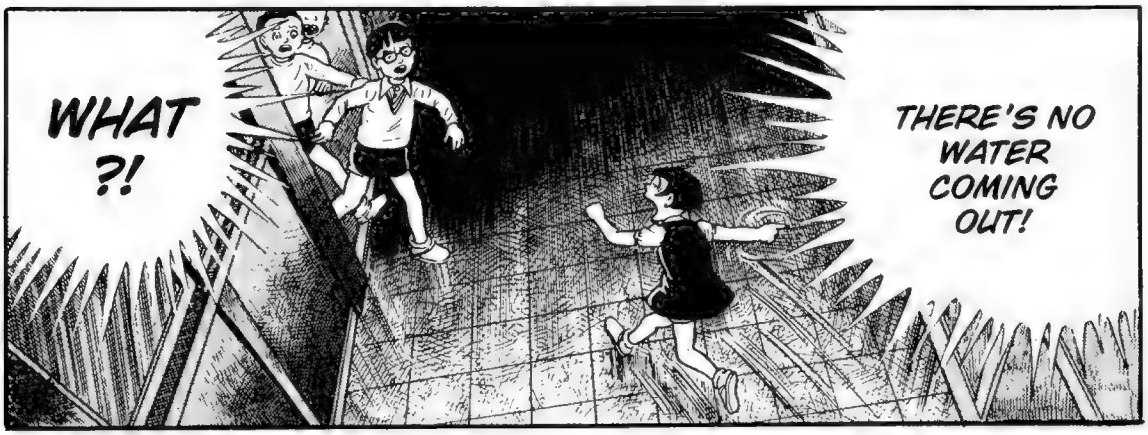
CHAK
CHAK


I KNOW WHAT'S *REALLY* GOING ON!
HA! NO ONE'S GOING TO TOUCH MY FOOD!

BUT NO MATTER WHAT...I'M GOING TO SURVIVE!

THIS IS ALL WE HAVE TO EAT!
I OVERHEARD THOSE TEACHERS! WE DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE! THERE'S BEEN A *NUCLEAR WAR!*

*SIGN=6TH GRADE, CLASS 3



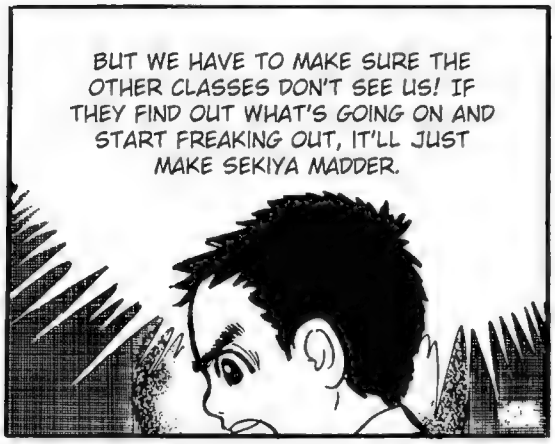
THE POWER'S NOT ON EITHER. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WHEN IT GETS DARK!?
THEN WE'RE *REALLY* GONNA STARVE!
NO WAY!
NOT A SINGLE DROP!
WE CAN'T DEPEND ON THE TEACHERS ANYMORE! WE HAVE TO TAKE CHARGE!!
WE CAN PULL DOWN A GROWNUP IF WE DO IT TOGETHER!!
THAT'S RIGHT. IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING NOW, WE WON'T HAVE ANY ENERGY LEFT TO FIGHT!
WE SHOULD ALL ATTACK HIM! WE HAVE TO TAKE THE RISK!
WE'RE GETTING ALL WORKED UP BECAUSE WE'RE HUNGRY!
HOLD ON!
WHAT ABOUT AIKAWA? WE CAN'T LET HIM KILL HER! THAT WOULD BE *HORRIBLE!*

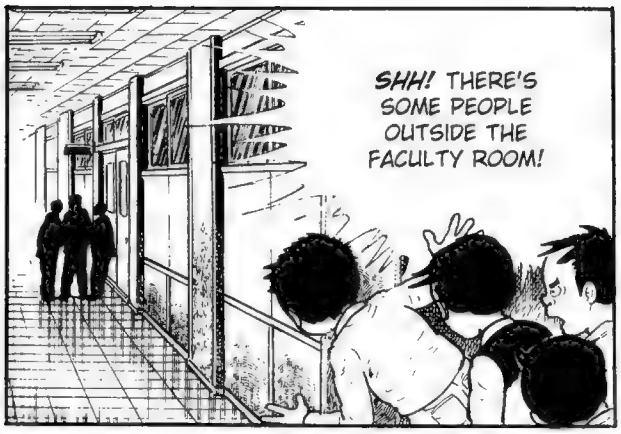
NOT JUST THE BREAD...THERE MUST BE MILK, EGGS, AND ALL KINDS OF STUFF! LIKE POTATOES! THEY SERVE POTATOES!
THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE FOOD!

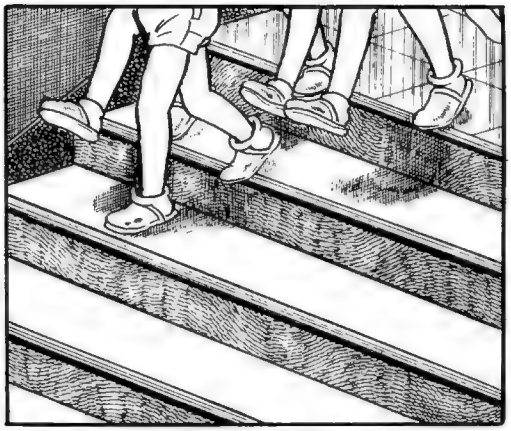
HE'S GOING TO LET US STARVE TO SAVE HIMSELF!
DAMMIT! SEKIYA'S GOING TO HOG IT ALL!

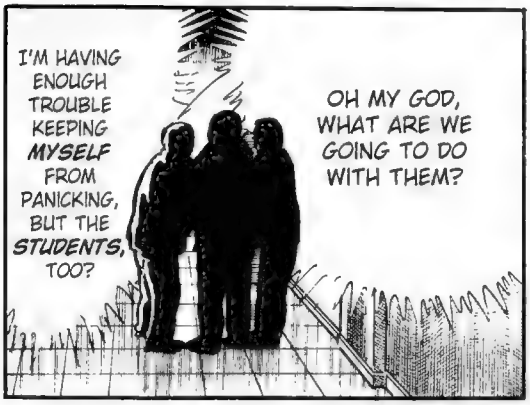
FIRST WE RESCUE AIKAWA, AND THEN WE ATTACK SEKIYA BY SURPRISE!
LISTEN--I THINK SOME OF US SHOULD SNEAK INTO THE KITCHEN!

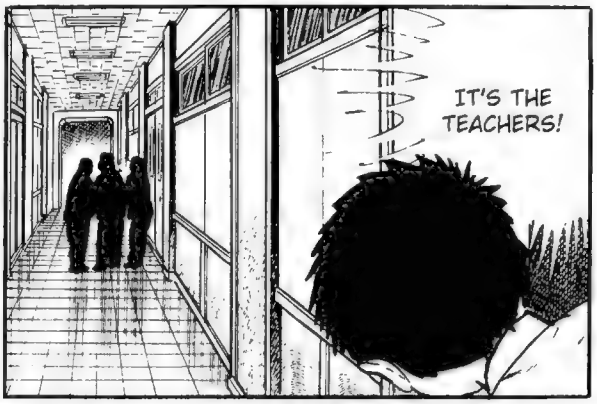
OKAY!
LET'S DO IT!


BUT WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE OTHER CLASSES DON'T SEE US! IF THEY FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AND START FREAKING OUT, IT'LL JUST MAKE SEKIYA MADDER.


SHH! THERE'S SOME PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE FACULTY ROOM!

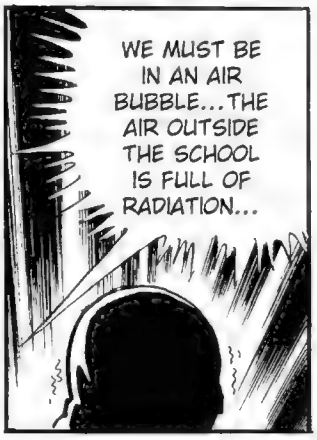



I'M HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE KEEPING MYSELF FROM PANICKING, BUT THE STUDENTS, TOO?
OH MY GOD, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THEM?


IT'S THE TEACHERS!

I MEAN, THERE MAY NOT BE A SINGLE LIVING PERSON LEFT IN TOKYO...NO...IN ALL OF JAPAN!
R-REALLY...WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...THOSE KIDS WOULD BE BETTER OFF DEAD!

THE WHOLE WORLD COULD BE CONTAMINATED WITH POISON...AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!


WE MUST BE IN AN AIR BUBBLE...THE AIR OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL IS FULL OF RADIATION...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN NUCLEAR MISSILES! I HEARD ON THE NEWS HOW SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN...

SO OUR MOMS ARE DEAD!?

TH-THEN MY BROTHER FAINTED FROM RADIATION?

NUCLEAR MISSILES!

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET EMOTIONAL! YOU KNOW THAT!

SHH! BE QUIET!

OKAY...IT'LL BE ME, IKEGAKI, HATO AND OKUBO. WE'LL COME BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN!
WE CALMED DOWN AND MADE OUR PLAN TO GET THE BREAD.

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS FOOD!

BUT ON THE INSIDE, I WAS CRYING FOR HELP, SHOUTING, "MOTHER! PLEASE HELP ME!"

THE FOUR OF US SNEAKED TOWARD THE KITCHEN FROM OUTSIDE.

HEY, SHO!

WE CAN DO IT! IT'S JUST LIKE PLAYING SPY!

IT'S WEIRD. LOOK AT THE SKY. IT'S GETTING DARK.

HUH? WHY?

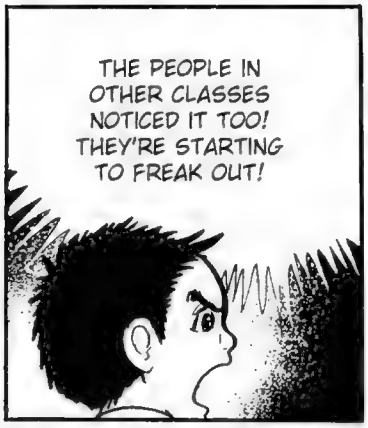
WHAT TIME IS IT?

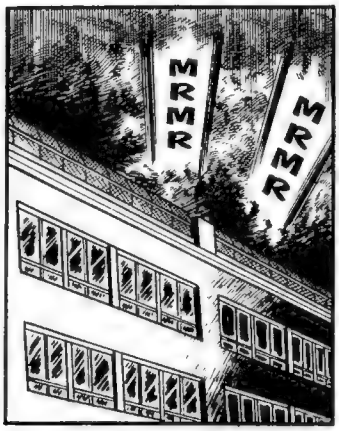
OH!
WHAT?

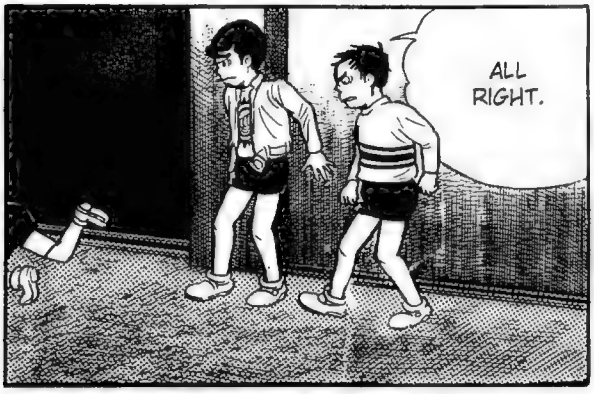
NO WAY...THE SCHOOL CLOCK RUNS ON BATTERIES, AND IT SAID IT WAS ONLY 3 O'CLOCK!

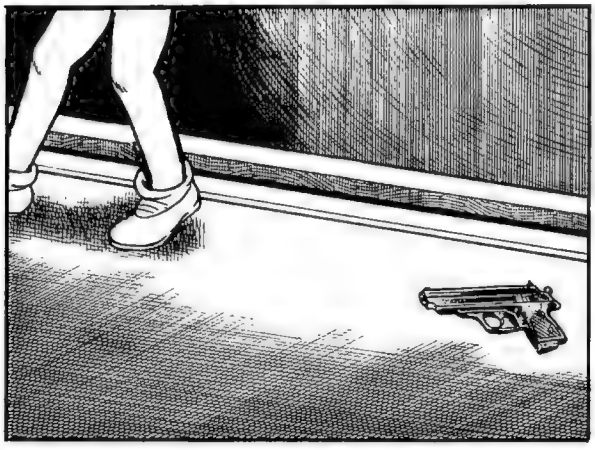
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WHEN IT GETS DARK?

WHY'S IT GETTING DARK SO EARLY?

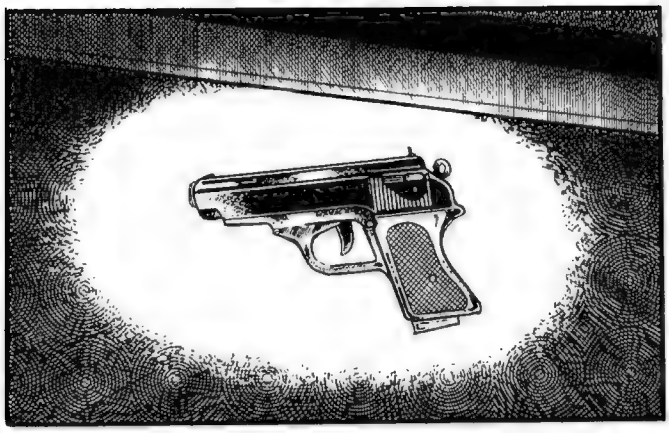

THE PEOPLE IN OTHER CLASSES NOTICED IT TOO! THEY'RE STARTING TO FREAK OUT!


MRMR
MRMR

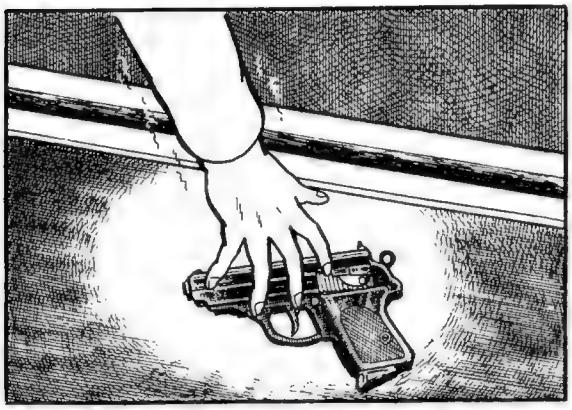

ALL RIGHT.

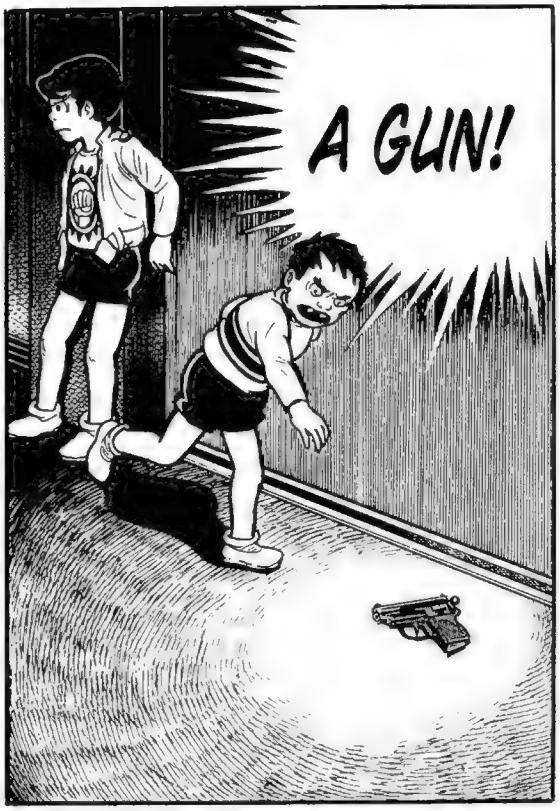


HATA AND OKUBO, YOU DISTRACT HIM FROM BELOW!!
OKAY...IKEGAKI AND I WILL CLIMB UP TO THE ROOF AND GO IN THROUGH THE AIR SHAFT.



HUH?!



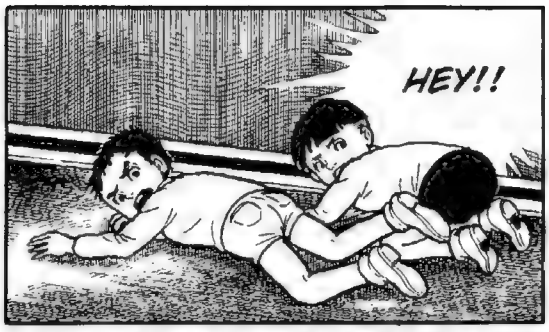

A GUN!

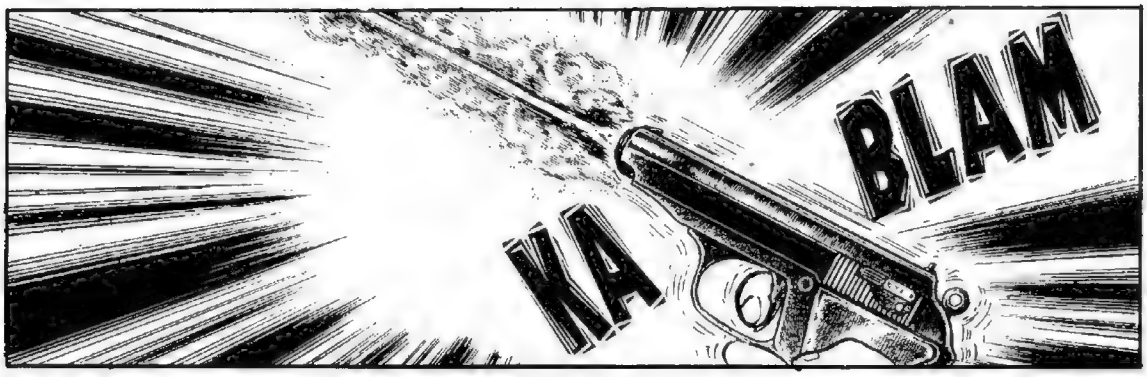
WHAT!?
I-IT'S REAL!!

KICHAK
IT'S EVEN LOADED WITH REAL BULLETS!!

AGGH! DON'T POINT IT AT ME!
WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A GUN DOING HERE?

S-STOP IT! THAT'S DANGEROUS!!


HEY!!

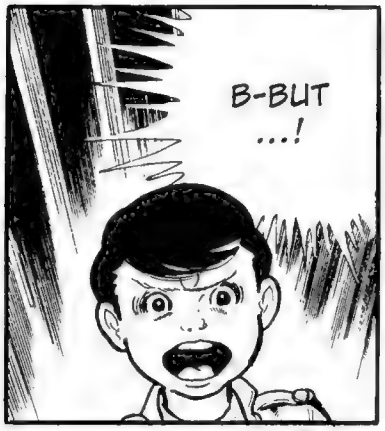

KA
BLAM

I KNOW A LOT ABOUT GUNS! THIS IS AWESOME!
IT'S REAL!!

AGGH!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I'LL GET HIM WITH THIS!

H-HE MUST HAVE HEARD THAT!!


B-BUT ...!

C'MON, OKUBO! LET'S GO!

I'M NOT SCARED OF HIM ANYMORE!

IT'S LIKE GOD LEFT THIS GUN HERE FOR ME!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF SEKIYA BY MYSELF! I'LL SAVE AIKAWA!

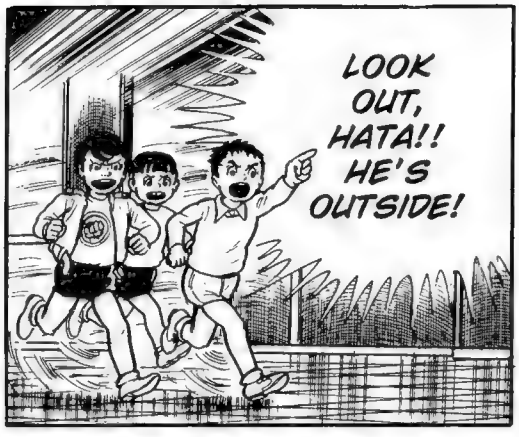
HATA! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

AH!!
SAKA

COME OUT, YOU BASTARD!

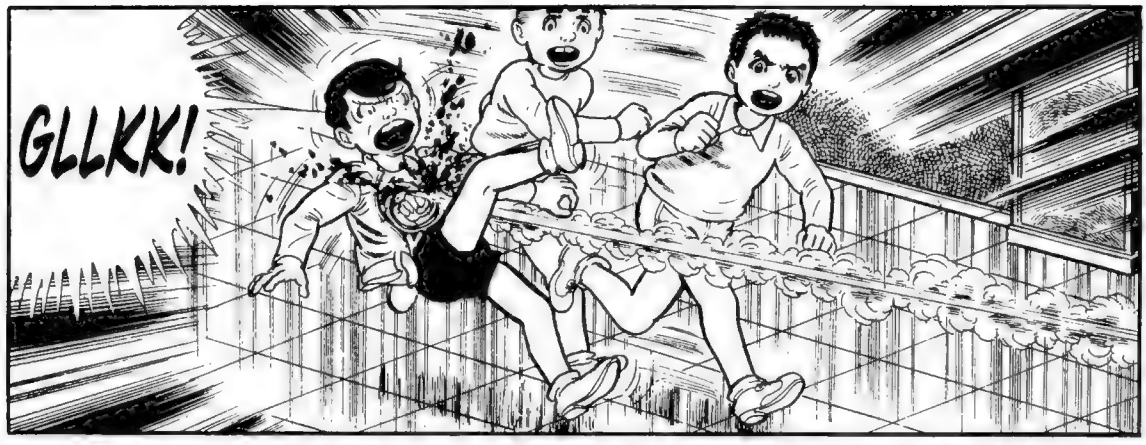
MMFF MMGGH!
AIKAWA! WHERE'S SEKIYA!?

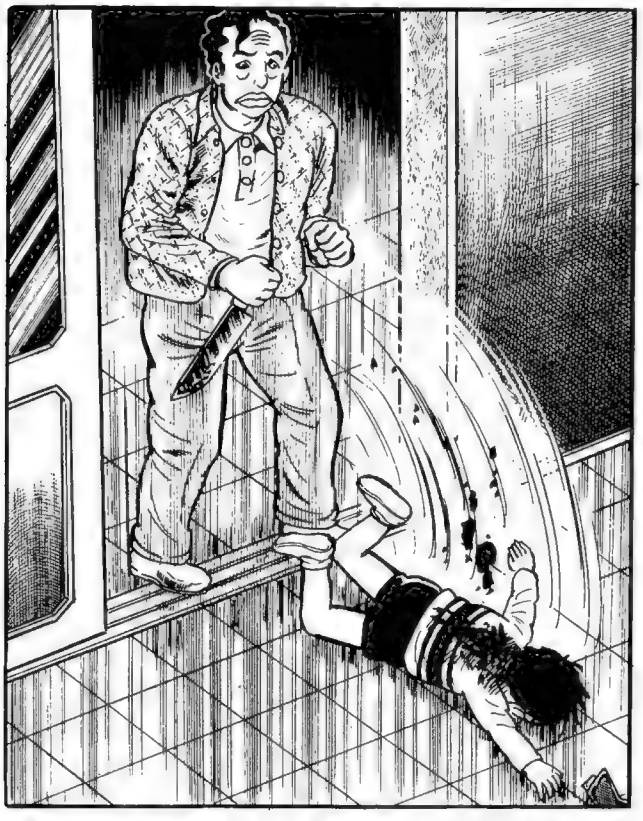
HE'S BEHIND YOU!


LOOK OUT, HATA!! HE'S OUTSIDE!

THUNK

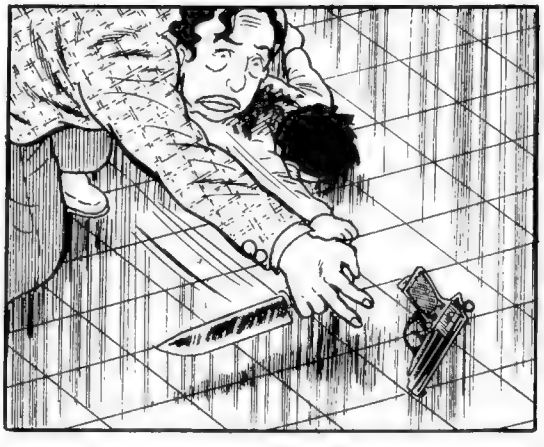
BLAMM


GLLKK!



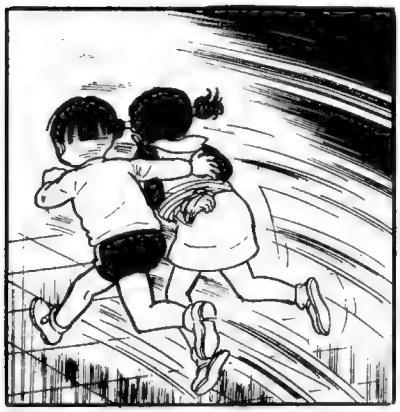
AGGGH!

NOOO!



YOU BRAT!

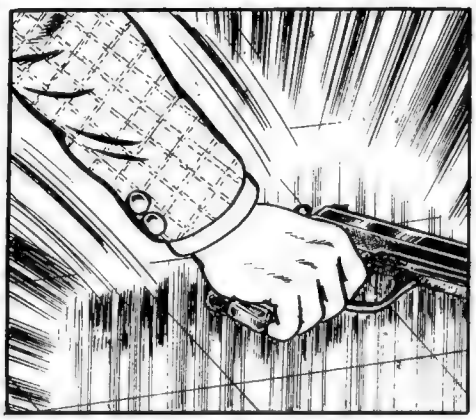
THUD



HURRY, AIKAWA!!

C-COME ON, AIKAWA! RUN!

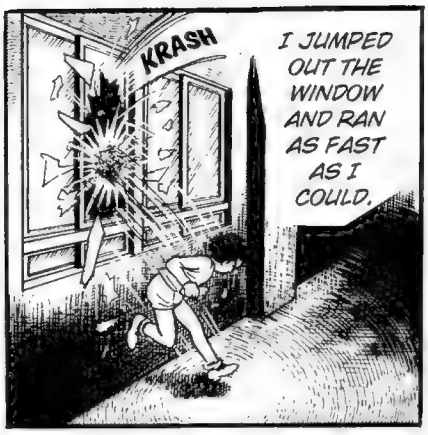
YOU LITTLE SHITS!



SKRASH
AIEEEE!

BRAM
M

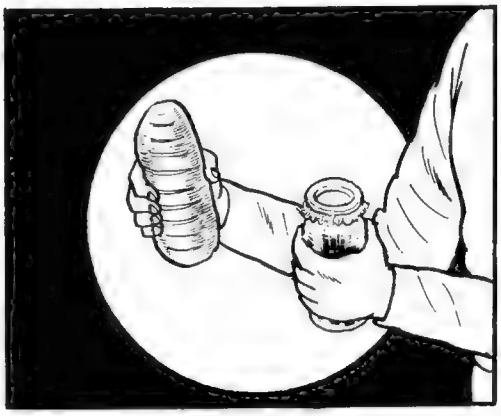
HUFF HUFF!


KRASH
I JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW AND RAN AS FAST AS I COULD.

AND HATA AND OKUBO ARE...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW THAT SEKIYA'S GOT A GUN?

I MUST HAVE GRABBED IT WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT!
HUH?! BREAD AND MILK?!

GULP



I RUSHED BACK TO THE CLASSROOM.

NO...I CAN'T EAT THIS!

OOH!
LOOK WHAT I GOT! BREAD AND MILK!

SHO! YOU'RE ALIVE!
AIKAWA! YOU MADE IT BACK OKAY!

WHAT'S WRONG!?
O-OH MY GOD... TAKAMATSU ...

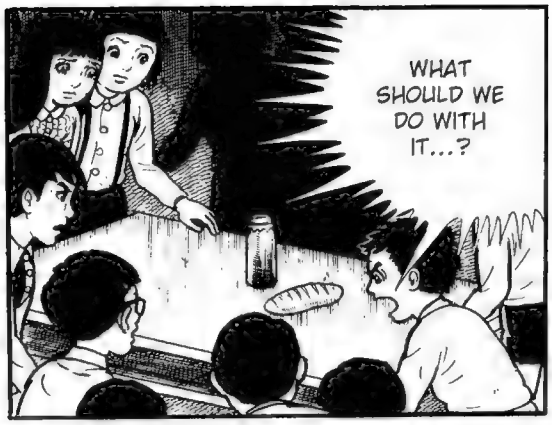
HURRAY

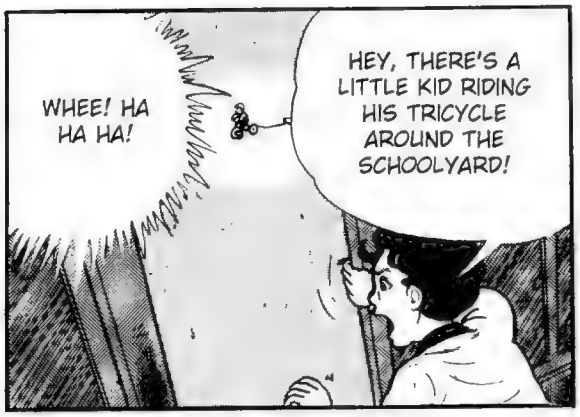
WHAT ?!

SEKIYA CAME BY WAVING HIS GUN, SHOUTING ABOUT A MISSING ROLL!
S-SO IT WAS YOU!

NO!!

I HOPE HE DOESN'T COME AFTER YOU!
I THINK HE'S GONNA HIDE ALL THE BREAD! HE MUST BE COUNTING IT TOO!

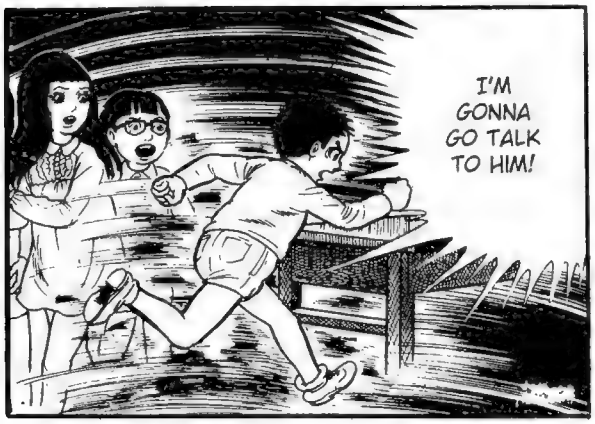

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH IT...?

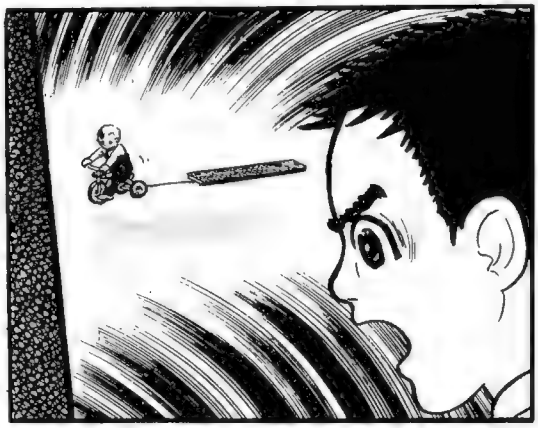

WHEE! HA HA HA!
HEY, THERE'S A LITTLE KID RIDING HIS TRICYCLE AROUND THE SCHOOLYARD!

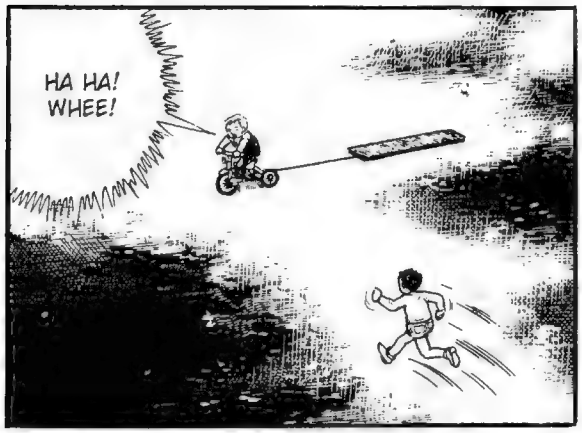
WHEEE
WHEEE
WH-WHO'S THAT?! IT'S COMING FROM OUTSIDE!

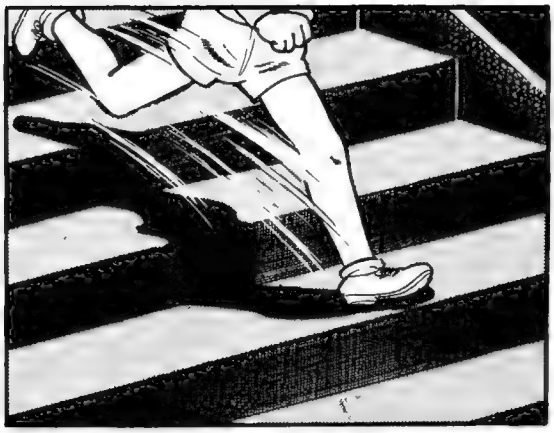
OH!

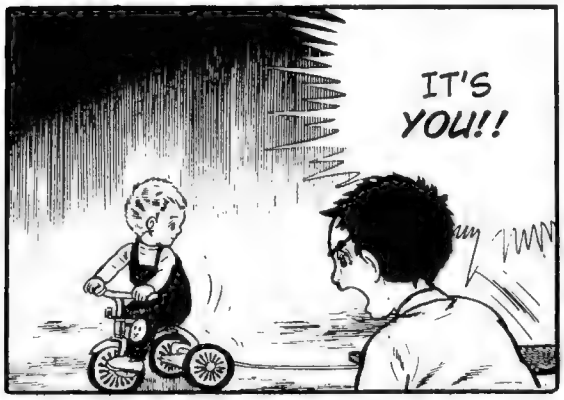
LET ME SEE!
A LITTLE KID?!

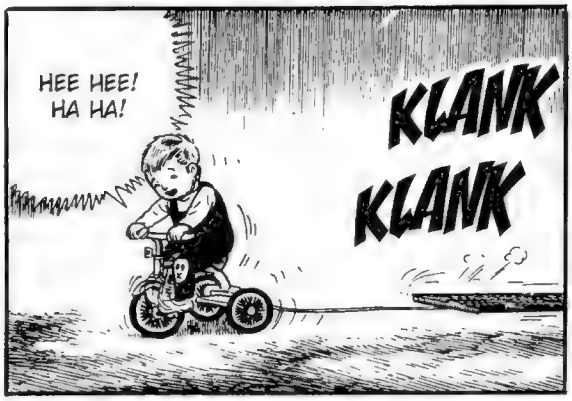

I'M GONNA GO TALK TO HIM!




HA HA!
WHEE!




IT'S
YOU!!

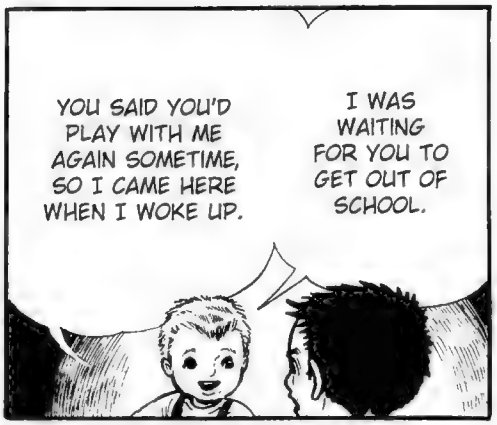

HEE HEE!
HA HA!
KLANK
KLANK

OH, HI!

WH-WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE!?

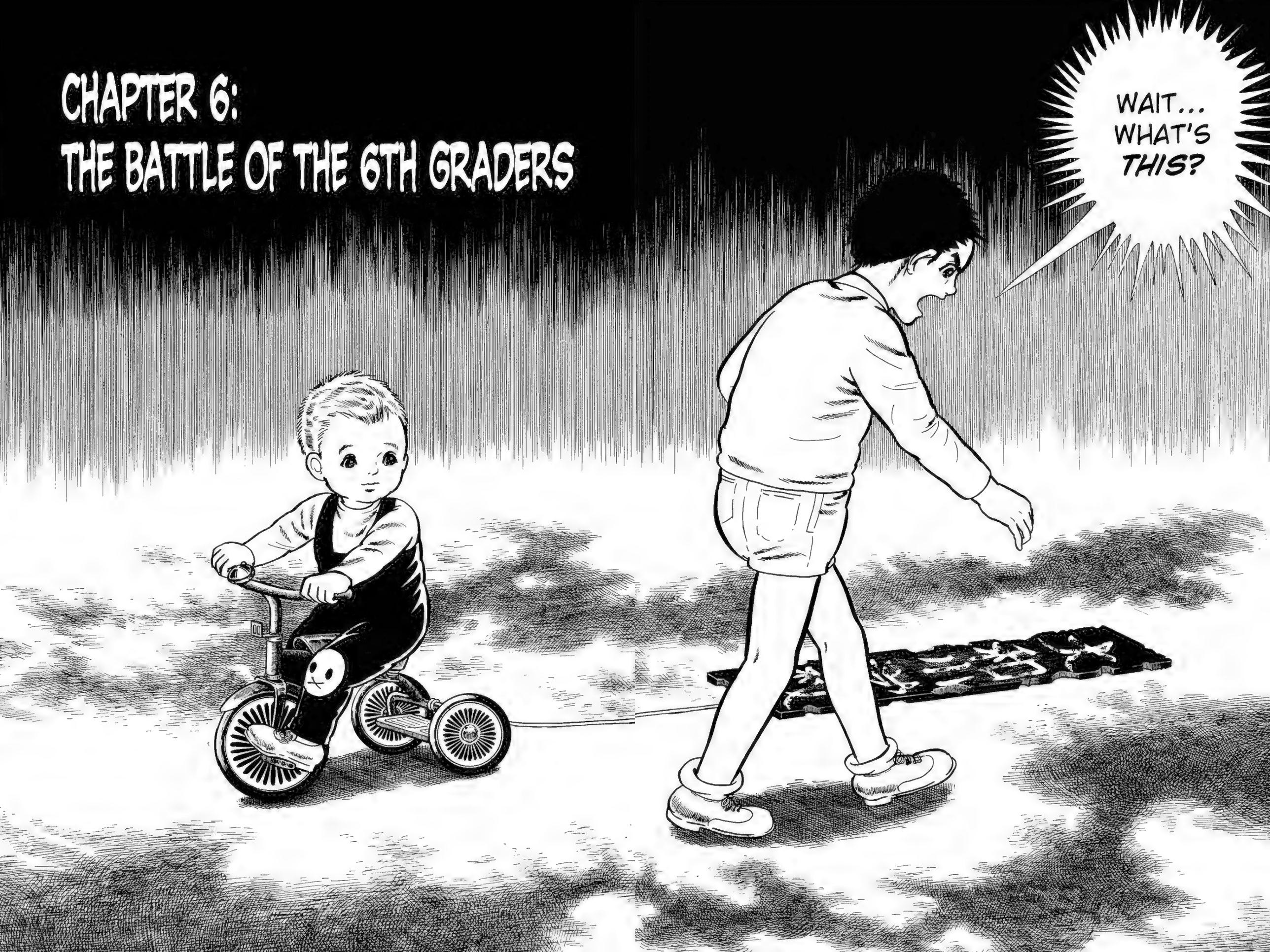
YOU'RE THE KID
WHO PLAYED
WITH ME AT
THE SCHOOL
LAST NIGHT!

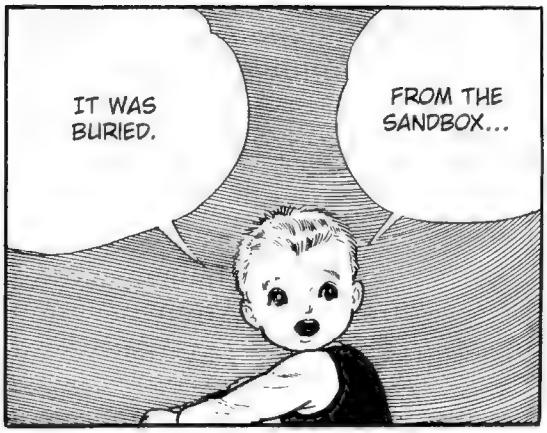
YOU
DID?!


YOU SAID YOU'D
PLAY WITH ME
AGAIN SOMETIME,
SO I CAME HERE
WHEN I WOKE UP.
I WAS
WAITING
FOR YOU TO
GET OUT OF
SCHOOL.

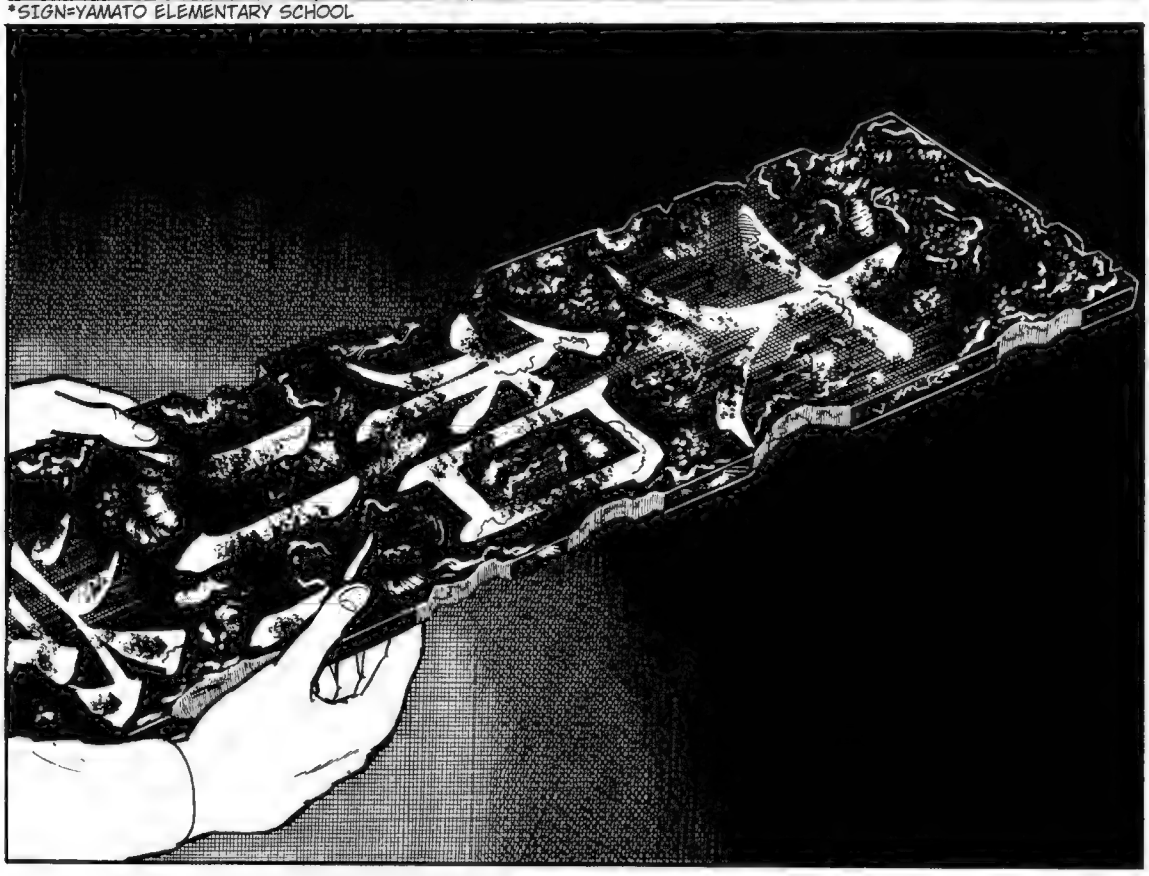
I WAS
HERE ALL
MORNING!

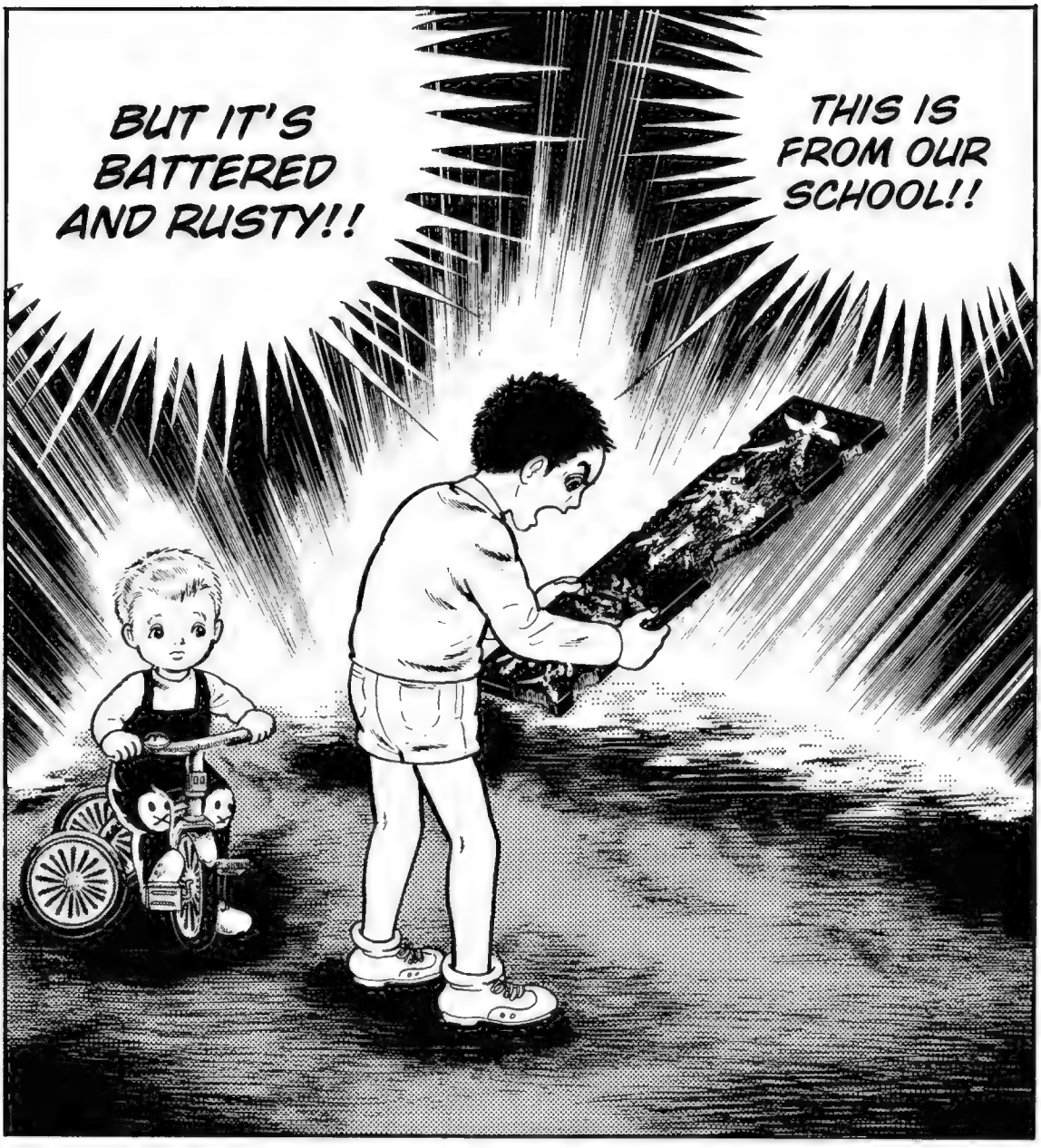
CHAPTER 6: THE BATTLE OF THE 6TH GRADERS



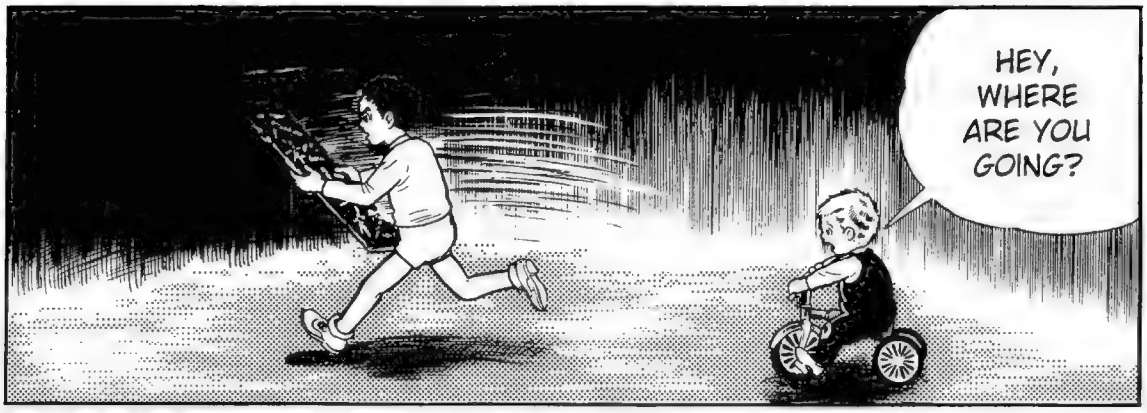


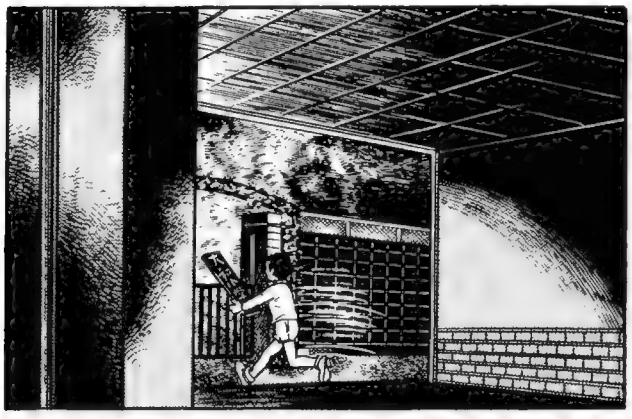
*SIGN=YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

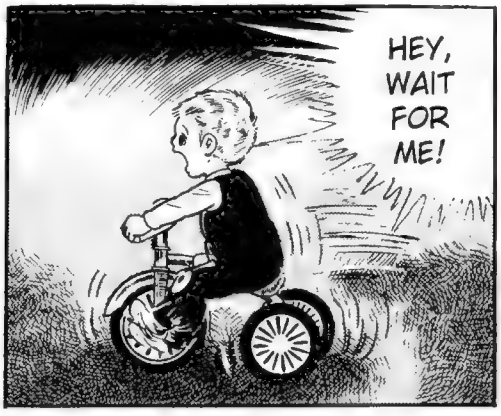



BUT IT'S BATTERED AND RUSTY!!
THIS IS FROM OUR SCHOOL!!

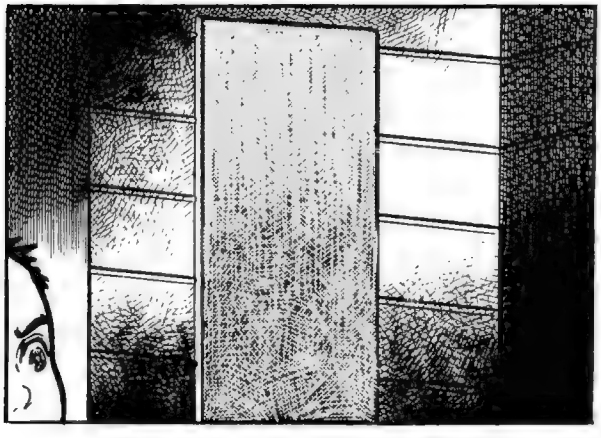
BUT I SAW IT ON THE GATE THIS MORNING, AND IT WASN'T RUSTY AT ALL!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS OLD!

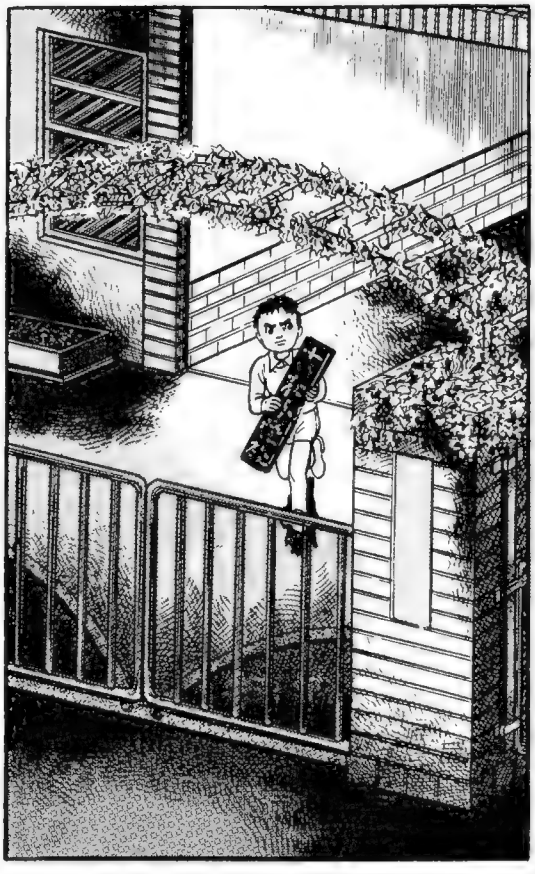

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

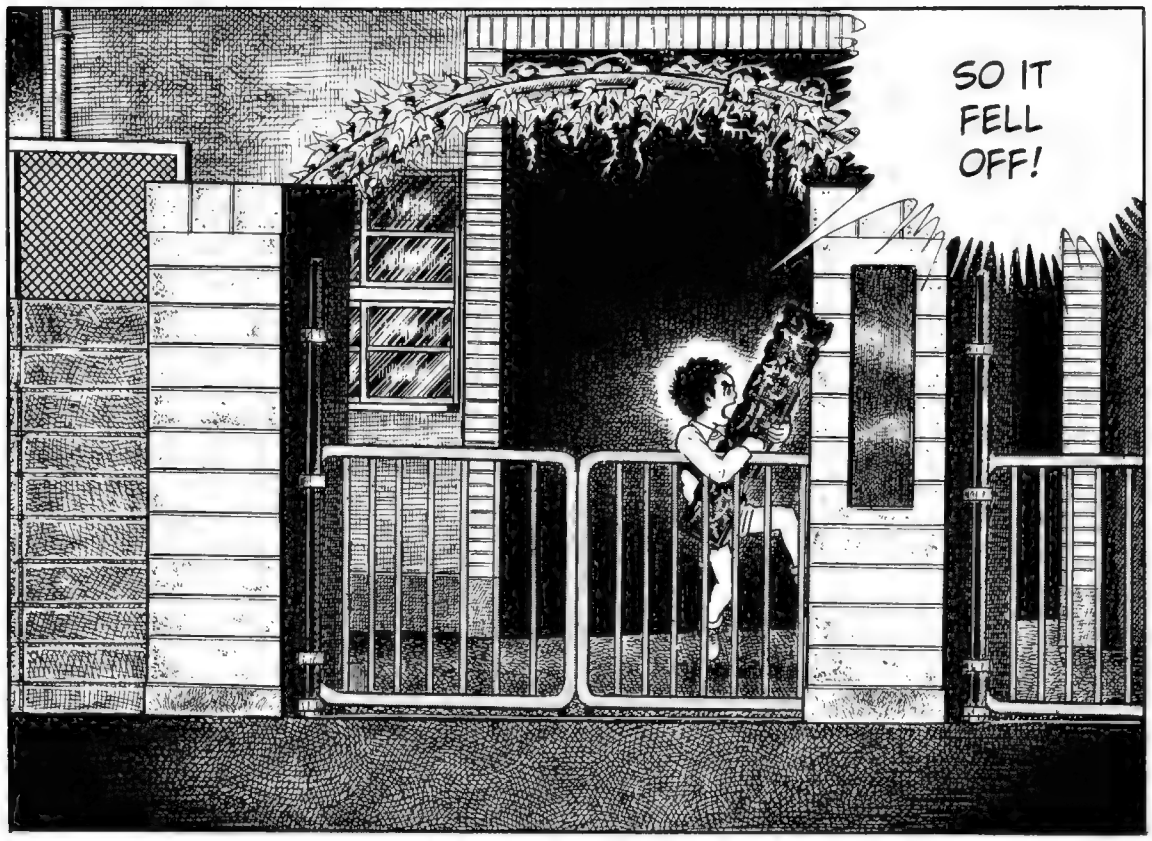


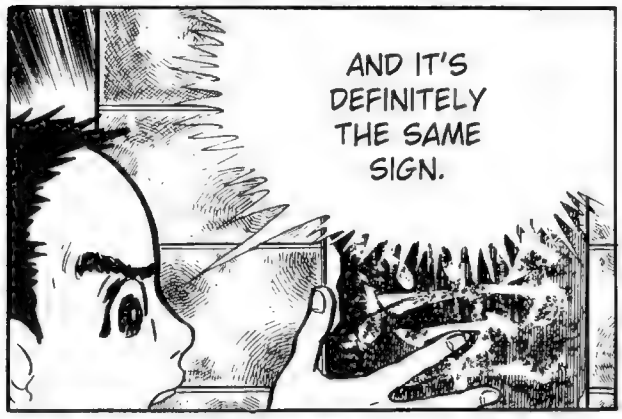

HEY, WAIT FOR ME!

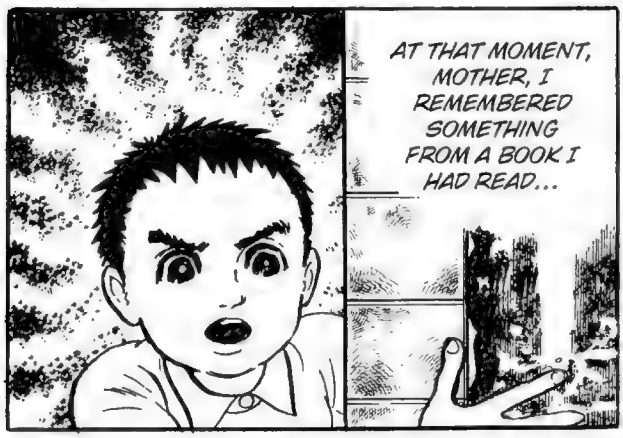
OH!

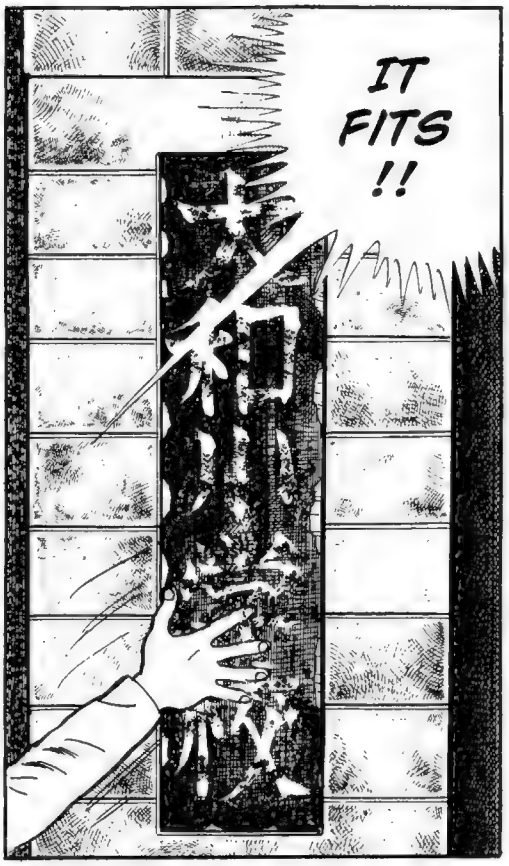


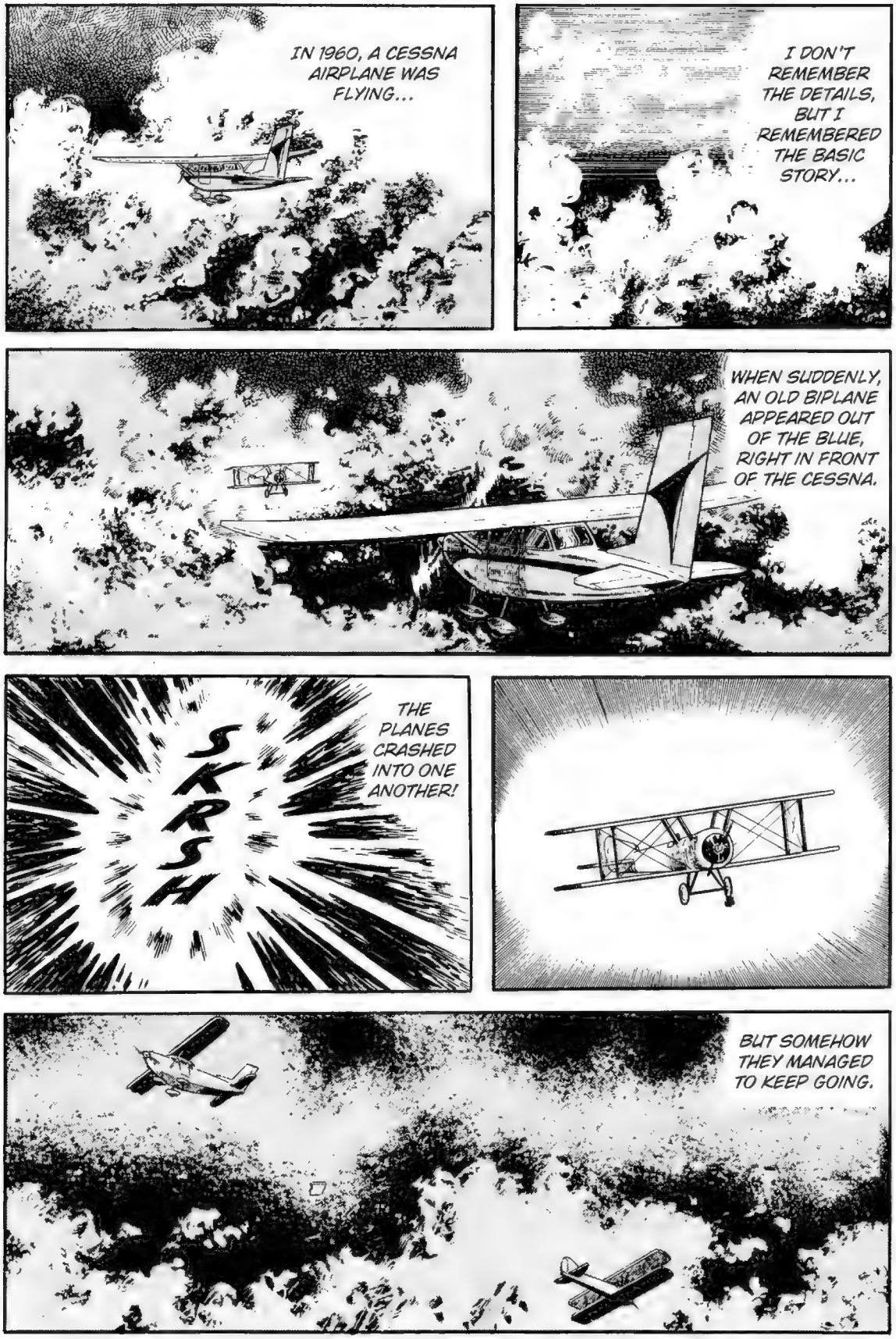


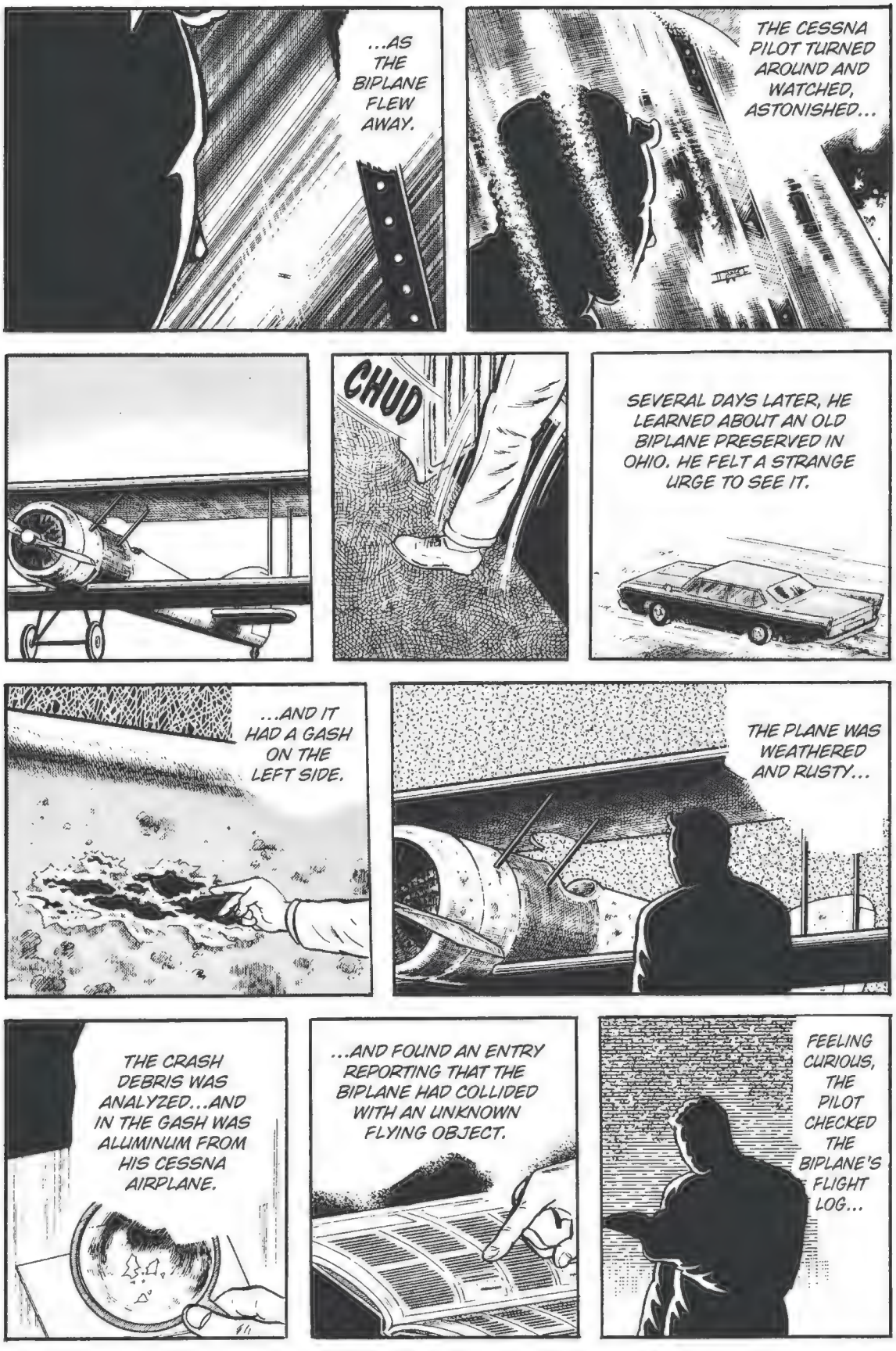

SO IT FELL OFF!

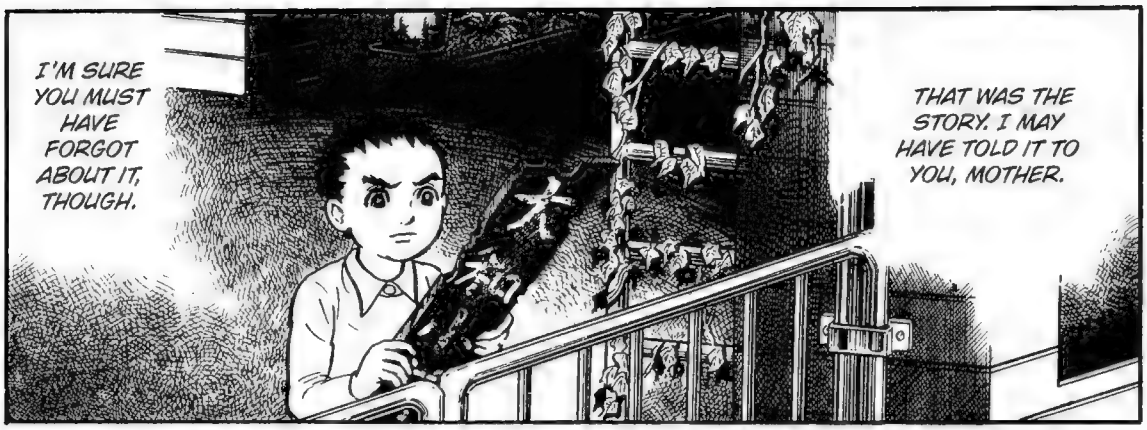

AND IT'S DEFINITELY THE SAME SIGN.

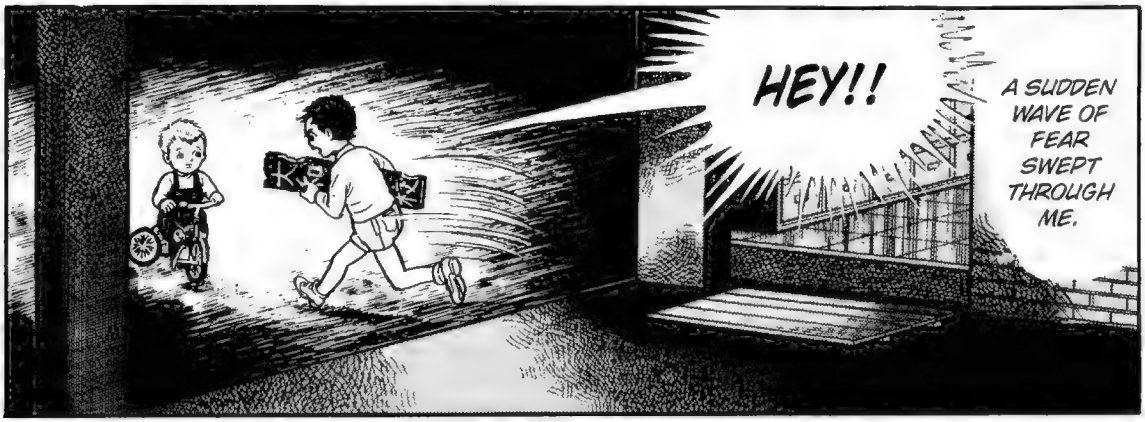

AT THAT MOMENT, MOTHER, I REMEMBERED SOMETHING FROM A BOOK I HAD READ...

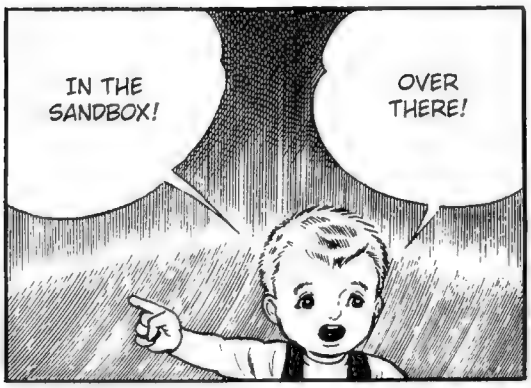

IT FITS !!


IN 1960, A CESSNA AIRPLANE WAS FLYING...
I DON'T REMEMBER THE DETAILS, BUT I REMEMBERED THE BASIC STORY...
WHEN SUDDENLY, AN OLD BIPLANE APPEARED OUT OF THE BLUE, RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CESSNA.
SKRSH
THE PLANES CRASHED INTO ONE ANOTHER!
BUT SOMEHOW THEY MANAGED TO KEEP GOING.


...AS THE BIPLANE FLEW AWAY.
THE CESSNA PILOT TURNED AROUND AND WATCHED, ASTONISHED...
CHUD
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, HE LEARNED ABOUT AN OLD BIPLANE PRESERVED IN OHIO. HE FELT A STRANGE URGE TO SEE IT.
...AND IT HAD A GASH ON THE LEFT SIDE.
THE PLANE WAS WEATHERED AND RUSTY...
THE CRASH DEBRIS WAS ANALYZED...AND IN THE GASH WAS ALUMINUM FROM HIS CESSNA AIRPLANE.
...AND FOUND AN ENTRY REPORTING THAT THE BIPLANE HAD COLLIDED WITH AN UNKNOWN FLYING OBJECT.
FEELING CURIOUS, THE PILOT CHECKED THE BIPLANE'S FLIGHT LOG...


I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE FORGOT ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
THAT WAS THE STORY. I MAY HAVE TOLD IT TO YOU, MOTHER.

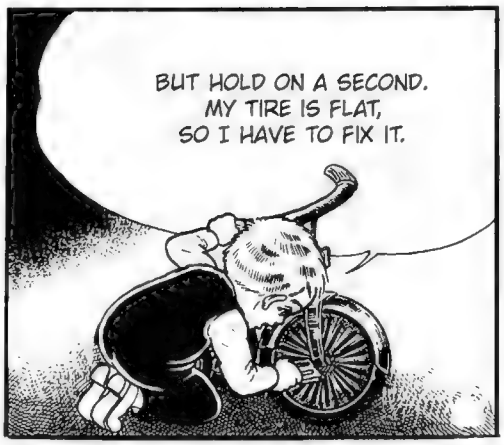

HEY!!
A SUDDEN WAVE OF FEAR SWEPT THROUGH ME.

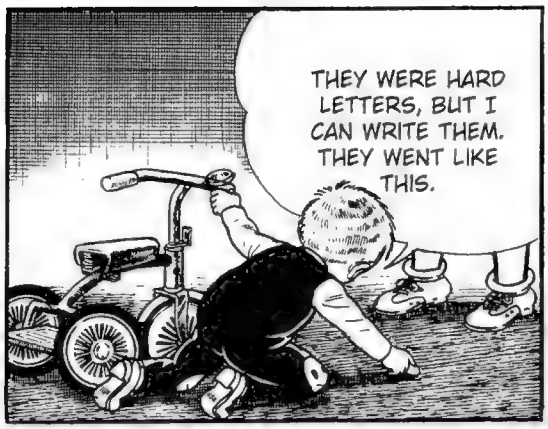

IN THE SANDBOX!
OVER THERE!

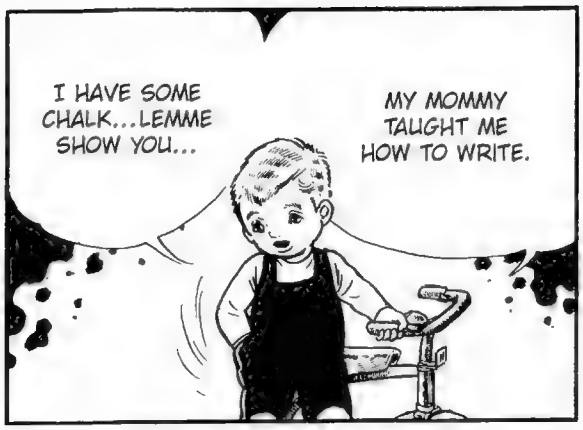
SURE!
SHOW ME WHERE YOU FOUND THIS!

WHAT!?

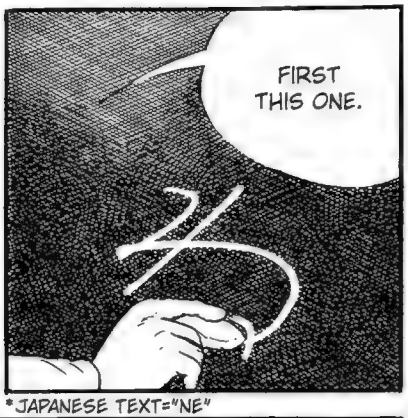
OH...THERE WAS A STONE WITH SOME WRITING ON IT TOO.


BUT HOLD ON A SECOND. MY TIRE IS FLAT, SO I HAVE TO FIX IT.

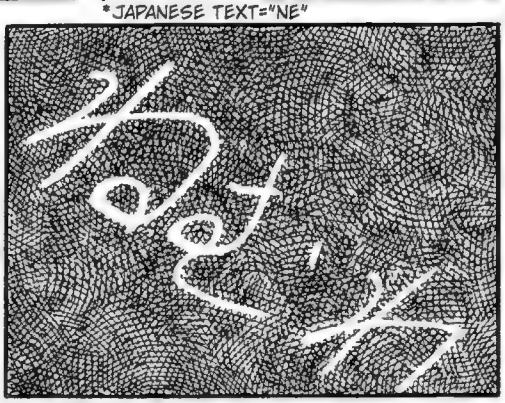




*JAPANESE TEXT="NEMURE"



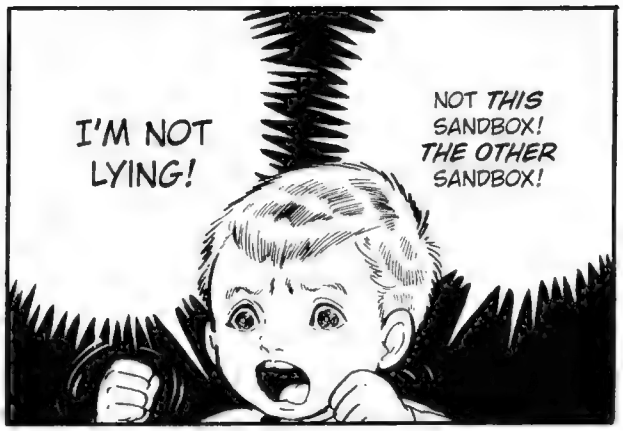
*JAPANESE TEXT="NE"



*NEMURE="REST"

COME ON!
WAIT FOR ME!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
NO, NO!
WAS IT HERE? OR OVER HERE?
WHERE WAS IT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
DID YOU MOVE IT? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH IT?
WHERE'S THE STONE WITH THE WRITING?
YOU JUST SAID IT WAS! YOU LIAR!
IT'S NOT IN THIS SANDBOX!

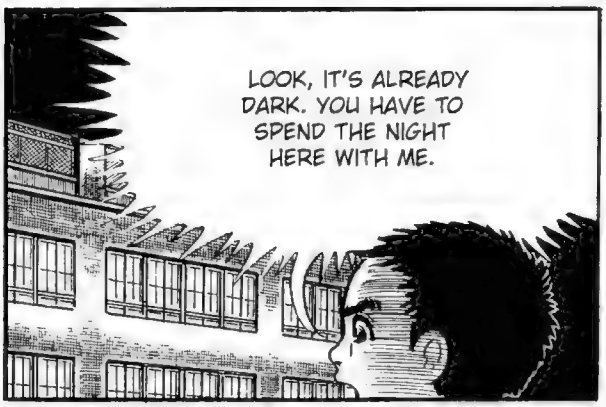
WAAH !!!


I'M NOT LYING!
NOT THIS SANDBOX! THE OTHER SANDBOX!

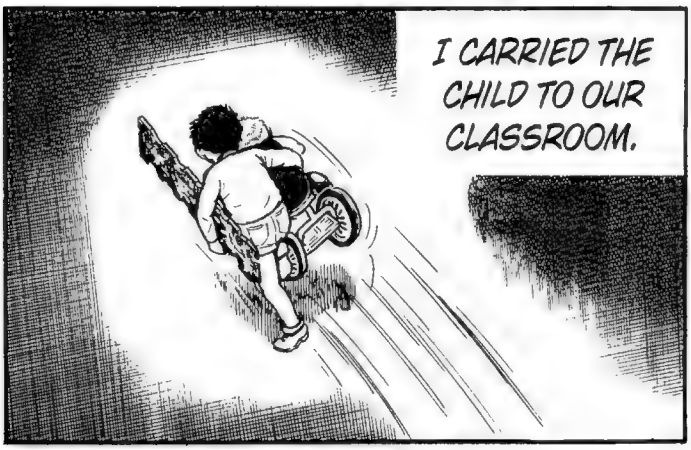
I'M GOING HOME. MY MOMMY IS WAITING FOR ME.

NO! YOU GET ANGRY SO I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU!!

I APOLOGIZE. LOOK...COULD YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME ONE MORE TIME? PLEASE?
HEY, I'M SORRY.


LOOK, IT'S ALREADY DARK. YOU HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE WITH ME.

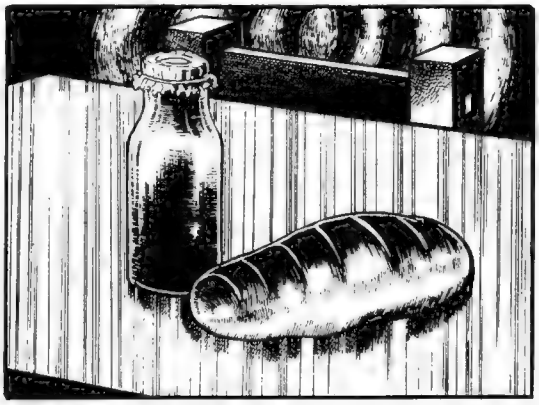
UH...NO! NO! YOU CAN'T GO HOME.


I CARRIED THE CHILD TO OUR CLASSROOM.

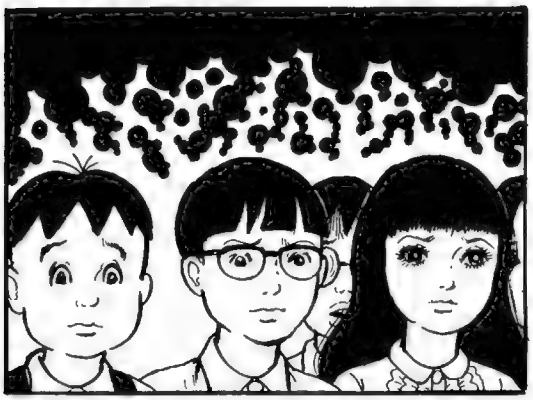
I DON'T WANT TO! I'M HUNGRY!

BUT FIRST, HE NEEDS SOMETHING TO EAT.
I FOUND OUT SOMETHING INTERESTING! I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT.

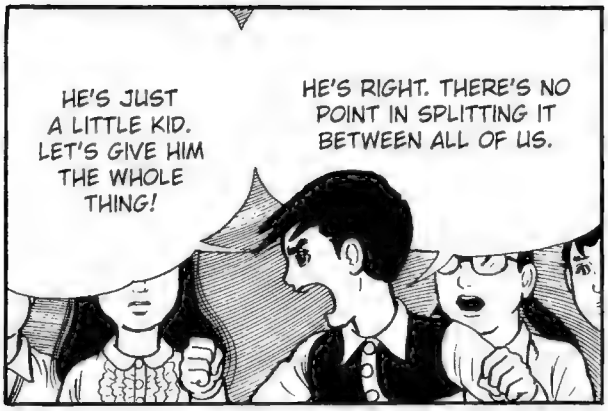
SHO, WHAT'S GOING ON!?

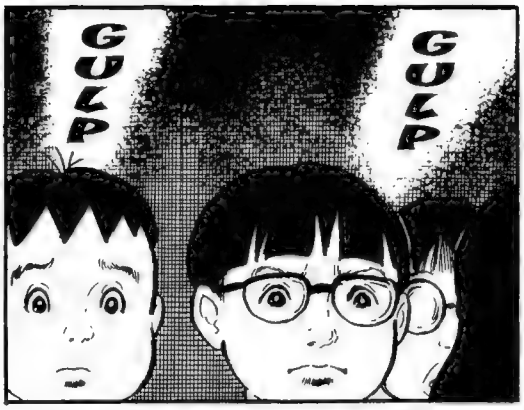


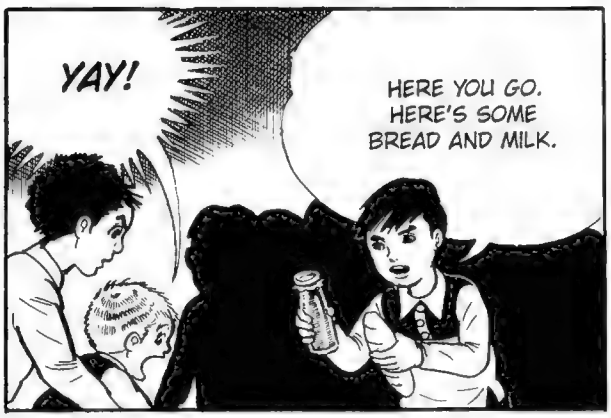
DO YOU MIND IF WE GIVE HIM THIS ROLL AND MILK? HE SEEMS REALLY HUNGRY.



I KNOW YOU ALL WANT SOME TOO.

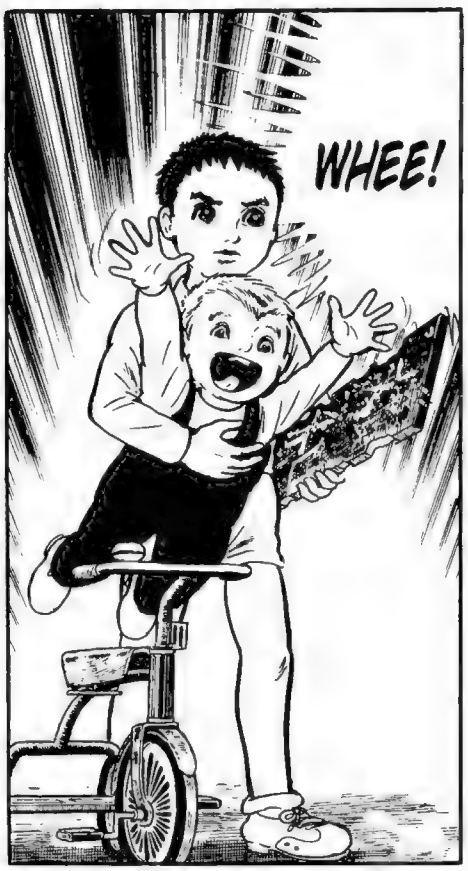

HE'S JUST A LITTLE KID. LET'S GIVE HIM THE WHOLE THING!
HE'S RIGHT. THERE'S NO POINT IN SPLITTING IT BETWEEN ALL OF US.


GULP
GULP


YAY!
HERE YOU GO. HERE'S SOME BREAD AND MILK.

SURE! WHY NOT?
SURE... OKAY!

GLUG
GLUG


WHEE!

THANKS, EVERYONE.
GLUG
GLUG
HEY, DON'T SPILL IT!
YEAH! I DON'T MIND A SLEEPOVER.
DID IT TASTE GOOD?
SAVE SOME TO WASH DOWN YOUR BREAD.
HE'S ASLEEP.
I'M GETTING SLEEPY.
WHY AREN'T THE LIGHTS ON?

I KNOW! I'LL TRY STARTING A SPARK BY RUBBING MY NOTEBOOK AGAINST THE DESK!

OF COURSE NOT. IT'S AGAINST THE RULES.

DOES ANYONE HAVE A MATCH?
IT'S PITCH BLACK. DON'T MOVE, YOU'LL BUMP INTO THINGS.

LOOK, EVERY-ONE!!

MAYBE SOMEONE TRIED TO GET FOOD AND GOT SHOT?
IT'S SEKIYA AGAIN.

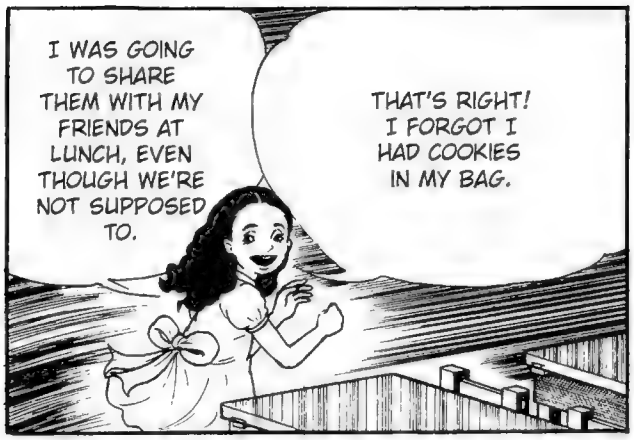
BLAMM

I FOUND THIS CANDY IN MY POCKET!!

LOOK WHAT I GOT!

THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
YOU SHOULD CHECK YOURS TOO.

OOH!


I WAS GOING TO SHARE THEM WITH MY FRIENDS AT LUNCH, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO.
THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT I HAD COOKIES IN MY BAG.

THEY WERE IN MY PANTS FROM YESTERDAY!
OH, OH! I GOT PEANUTS!

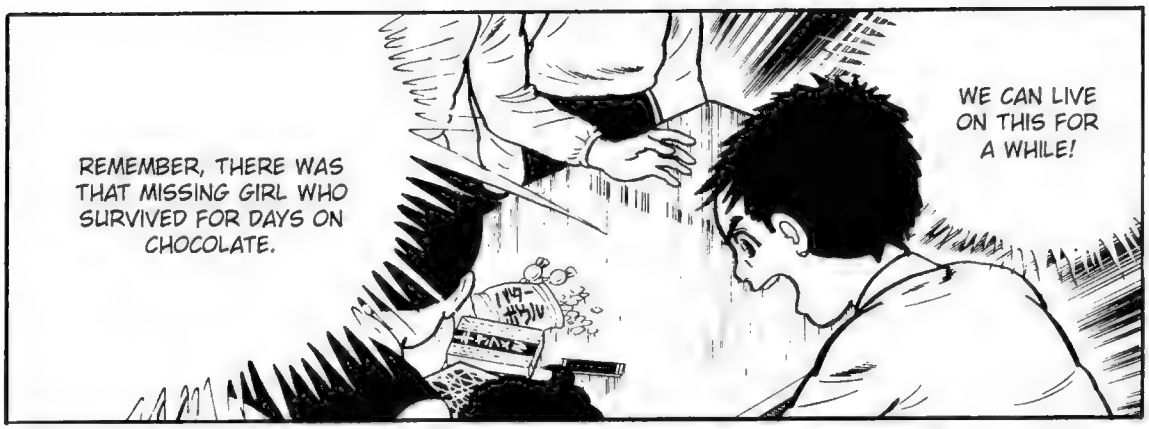
I-I BROUGHT SOME CAKE TO TRADE WITH YOU!

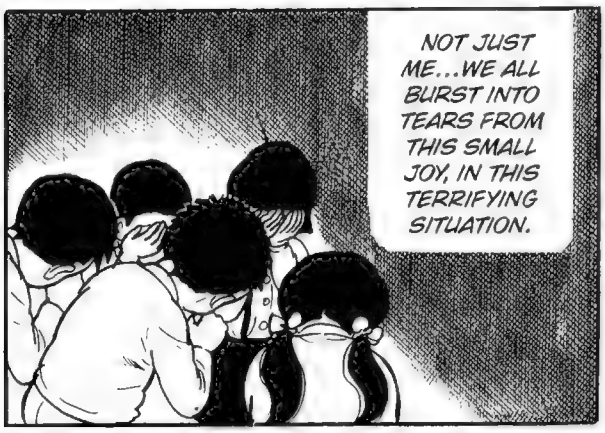
I BROUGHT A NEW CHOCOLATE BAR TO TRADE WITH SAE!

HA HA HA
HA HA HA

WHY DO YOU GIRLS SNEAK SNACKS INTO THE CLASSROOM? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SO MUCH...
WOW!

LOOK HOW MUCH WE COLLECTED!!


REMEMBER, THERE WAS THAT MISSING GIRL WHO SURVIVED FOR DAYS ON CHOCOLATE.
WE CAN LIVE ON THIS FOR A WHILE!


NOT JUST ME...WE ALL BURST INTO TEARS FROM THIS SMALL JOY, IN THIS TERRIFYING SITUATION.

I WAS SO HAPPY I STARTED CRYING.

S-SOMEONE BRING ME MORE PAPER AND PENCILS! QUICK!
WOW!

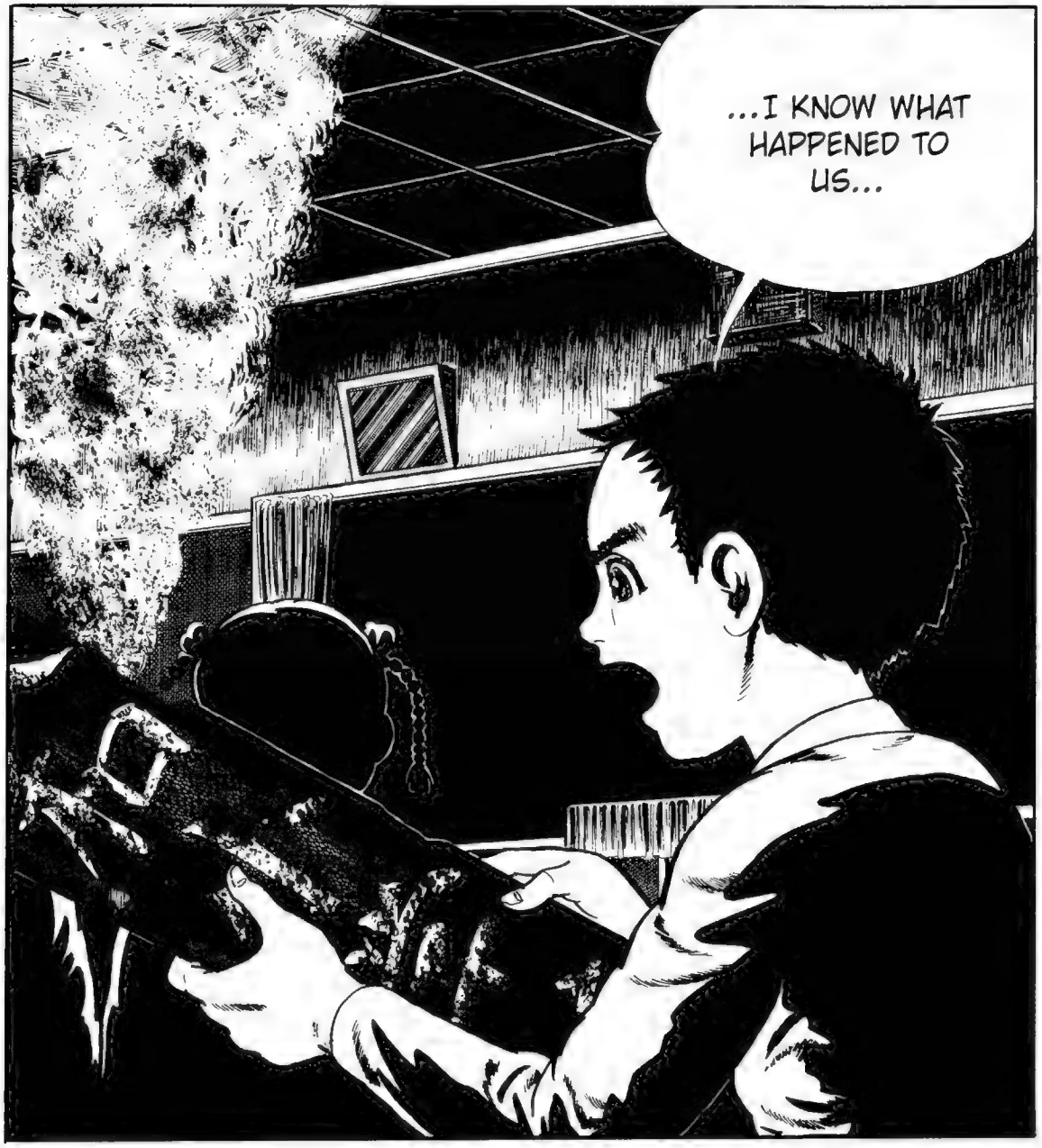
I USED SOME FIRE-WORKS POWDER!
I GOT THE FIRE GOING!!
FOOL

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER IF THIS SIGN WAS ON THE GATE THIS MORNING?

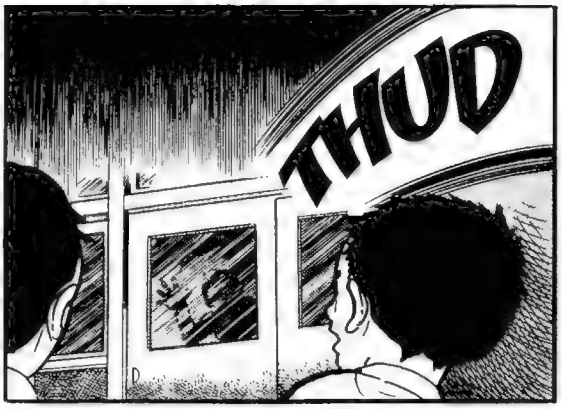
EVERYBODY, COME HERE! I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING OUT.

YAY! WE DID IT!

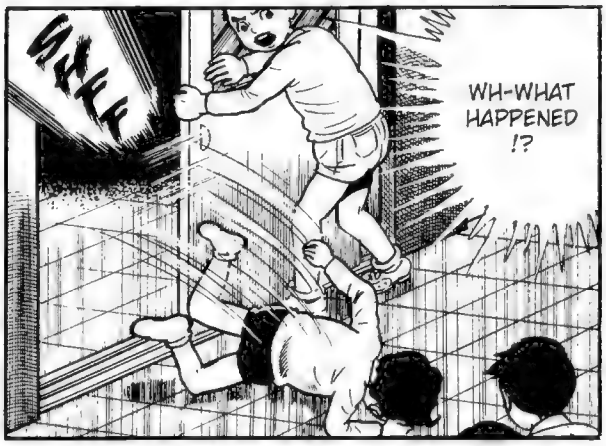
...THEN I THINK...
IF THIS WAS THE SIGN FROM OUR GATE...


...I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO US...

I-I'M FROM THE FIFTH GRADE!! PLEASE OPEN UP!!


THUD

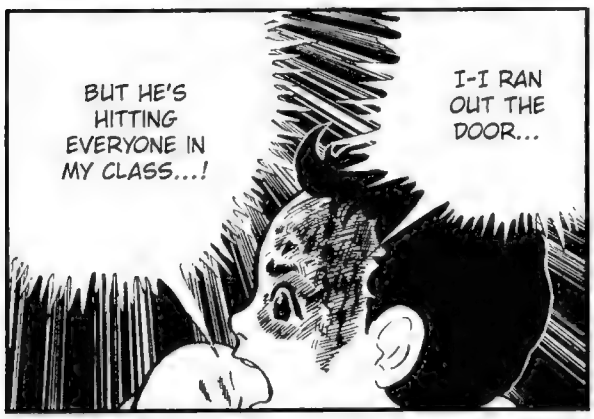
S-SEKIYA HIT ME!


SHAK
WH-WHAT HAPPENED !?

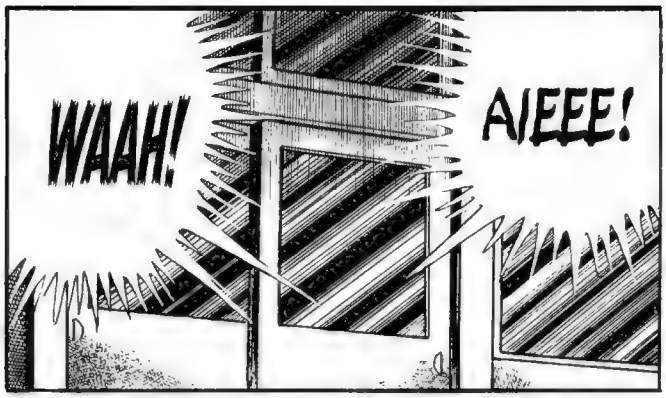
WHAT!?

HE'S LOOKING FOR THE PERSON WHO TOOK IT! HE'S GONNA COME HERE NEXT!

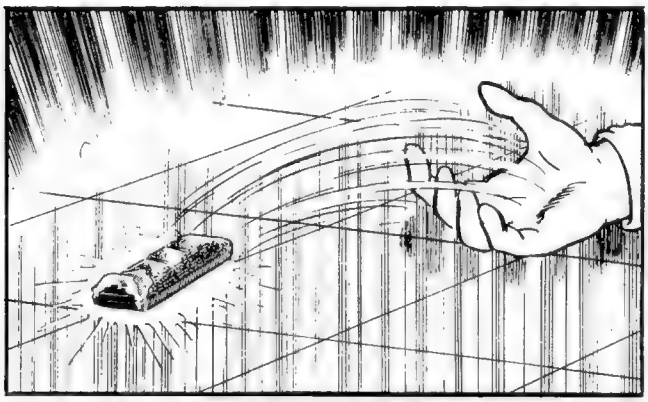
HE SAID WE STOLE HIS BREAD!

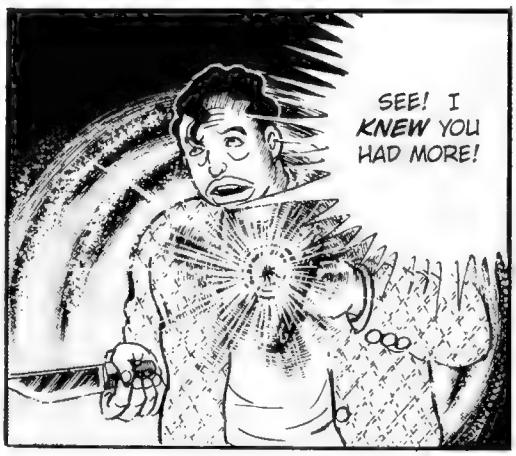

BUT HE'S HITTING EVERYONE IN MY CLASS...!
I-I RAN OUT THE DOOR...

HE'S TAKING EVERYTHING--ALL OUR FOOD!!



*SIGN=5TH GRADE, CLASS 1



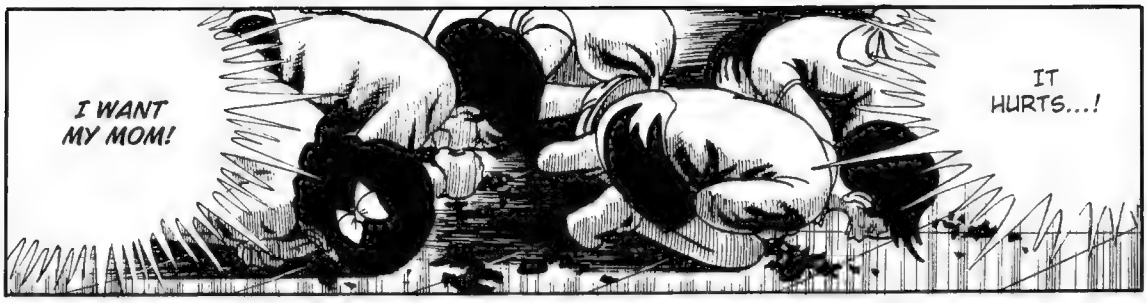


AGGH
THOK
SHUT UP, YOU LIAR!
DO YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE?
YOU BRATS BETTER NOT BE HIDING ANYTHING!!
GYAA!
CHOP
I WANT EVERYTHING !!

AIEE!
SOBB!

HMPH! CRY ALL YOU WANT, YOU BRATS!!

WAAH!


I WANT MY MOM!
IT HURTS...!

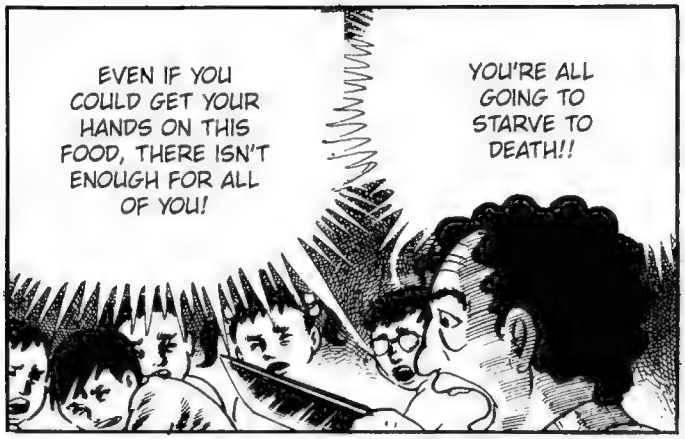
CRY, CRY, CRY!

EVERY DAY I MADE MY DELIVERIES I HAD TO TAKE SHIT FROM YOU AND YOUR TEACHERS!
YOU ALWAYS MADE FUN OF ME BECAUSE I WAS JUST A DELIVERYMAN!

AGGH!
SAY IT!!

NOW THE SCHOOL'S MINE! YOU CAN CALL ME MR. SEKIYA, SIR!

GYAAGH!
CALL ME MR. SEKIYA, SIR!
MR. SEKIYA, SIR...!
I KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN IT!
CRUSH
YOU LITTLE ASS-KISSER!!
HMPH!

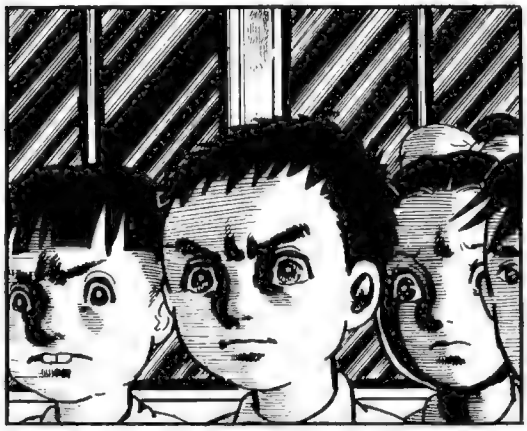

EVEN IF YOU COULD GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS FOOD, THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU!
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO STARVE TO DEATH!!

NYAAGH!

I'LL SURVIVE UNTIL SOMEONE COMES TO SAVE ME!
I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVES!!

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA HA
SEKIYA'S LAUGHTER ECHOED DOWN THE HALL INTO OUR CLASSROOM.

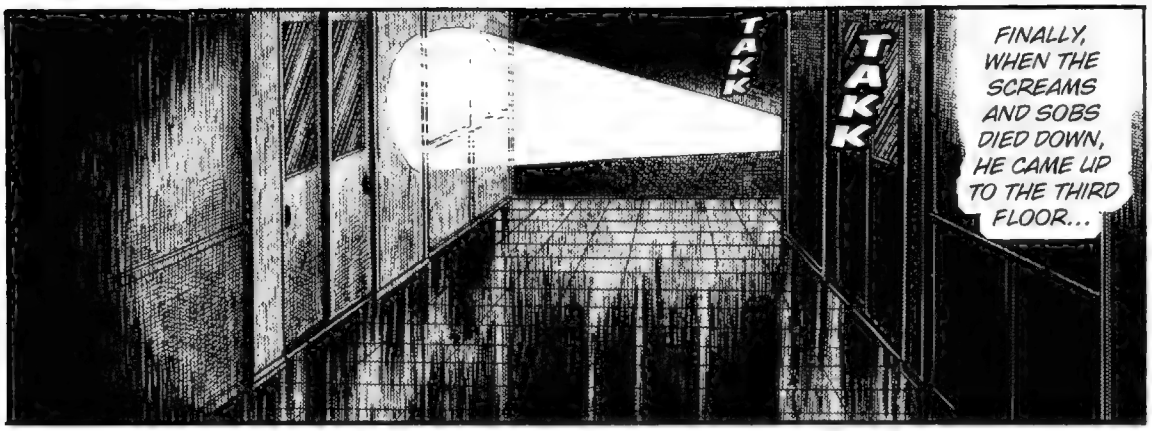


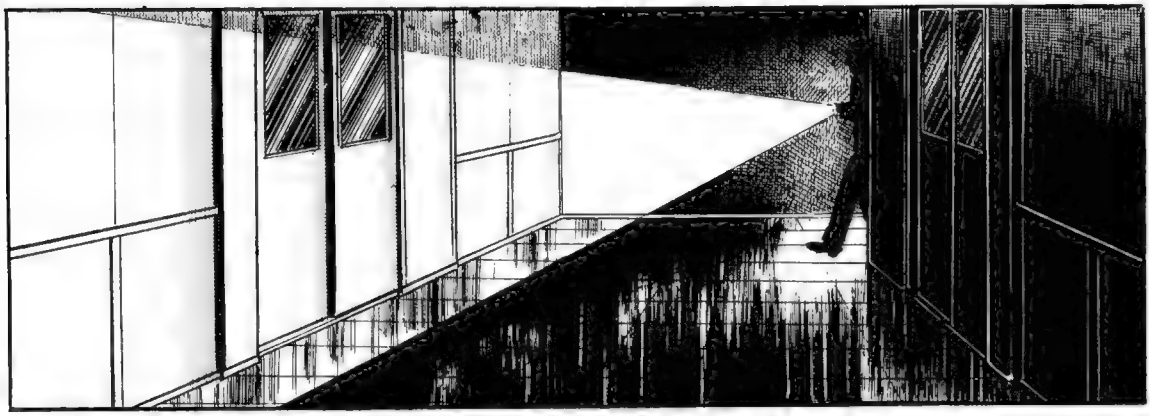
HA HA HA HA HA

SHO, YOU SHOULD RUN. YOU'RE THE ONE HE'S LOOKING FOR.

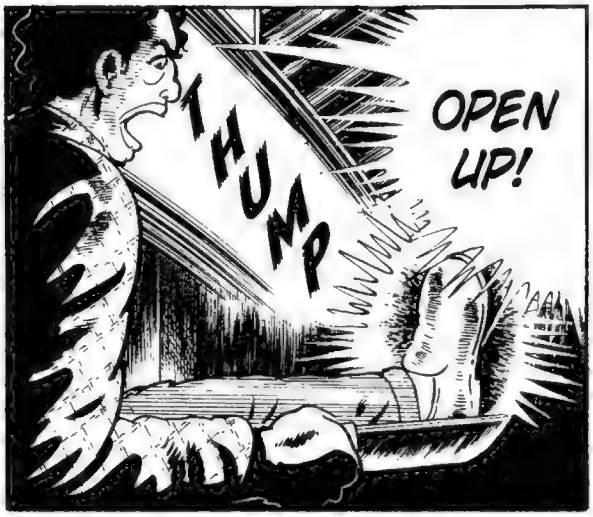
BESIDES, I HAVE TO PROTECT THIS LITTLE KID!

IF I DID, HE'D JUST TAKE IT OUT ON THE REST OF YOU.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I WON'T RUN.


TAKK
TAKK
FINALLY, WHEN THE SCREAMS AND SOBS DIED DOWN, HE CAME UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR...

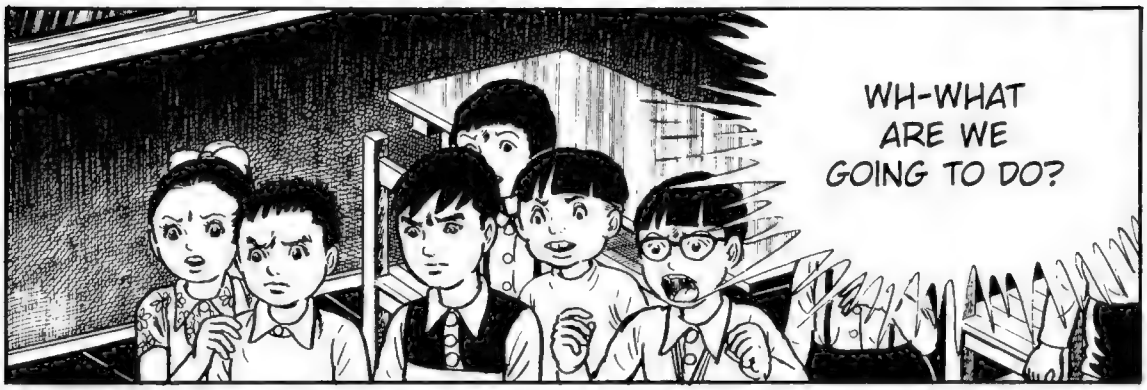


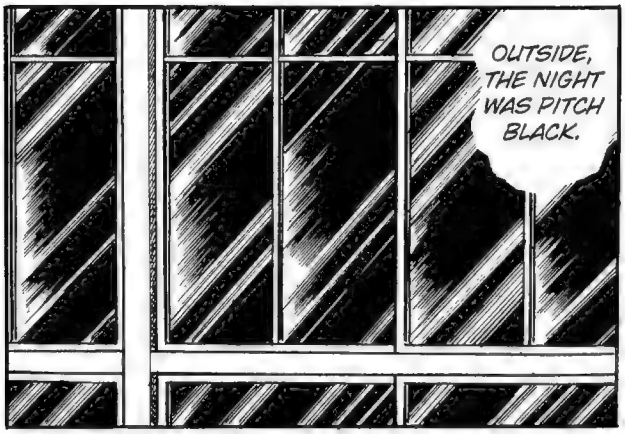
WHO STOLE MY BREAD!?
THUMP

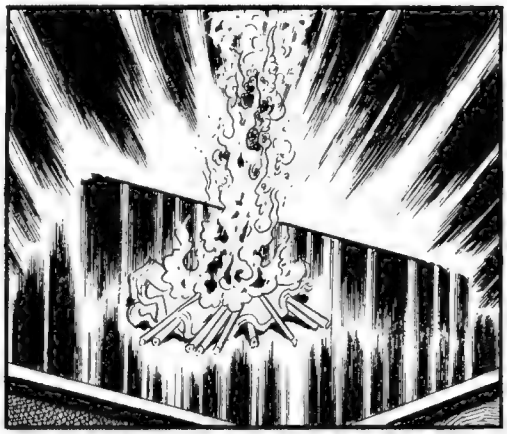

THUMP
OPEN UP!

AGGH
WE'RE NEXT! OR HE MIGHT HEAD BACK TO CLASS 5!

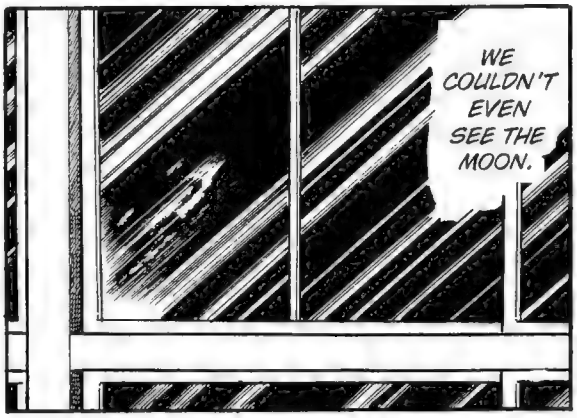
AIEEE
HE'S IN THE NEXT ROOM!!


WH-WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?


OUTSIDE, THE NIGHT WAS PITCH BLACK.



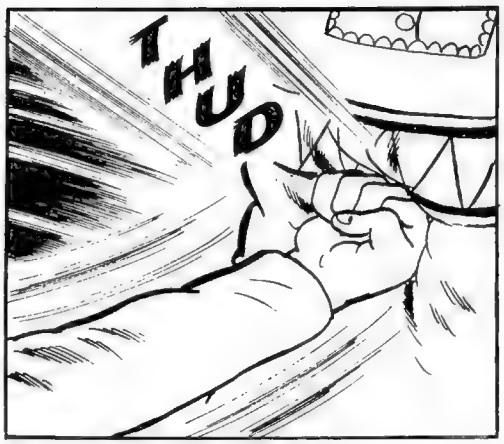
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I REALIZED HOW TERRIFYING TRUE DARKNESS IS.

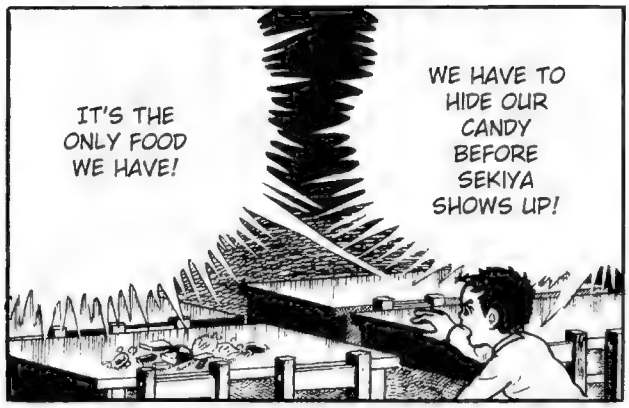

WE COULDN'T EVEN SEE THE MOON.

NOOO
AIEEE
WE COULD HEAR THE DISTANT SCREAMS OF THE KIDS IN THE LOWER GRADES.
EEYAAA
AGGGH!

I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED OF THE DARK!
I'M SCARED!
EEYAA
EEYAAA
MARI! BE QUIET!
MARI!!!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED!

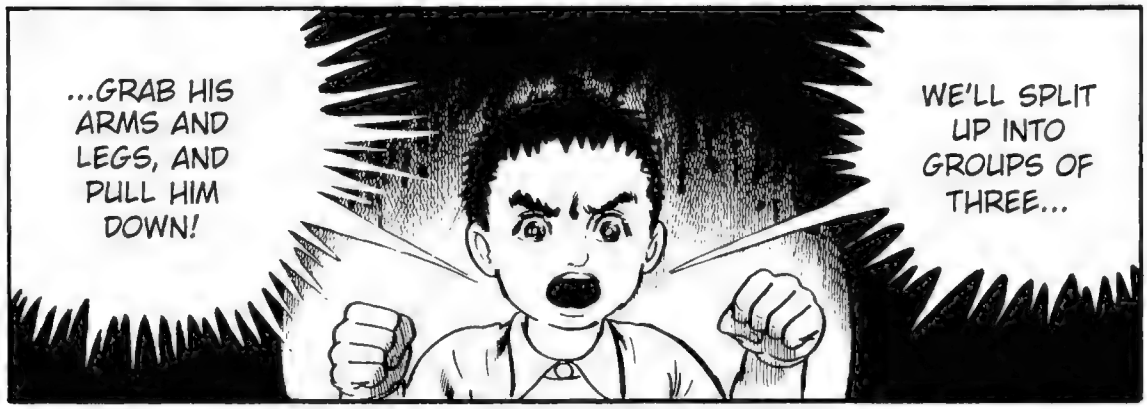
UNGH!

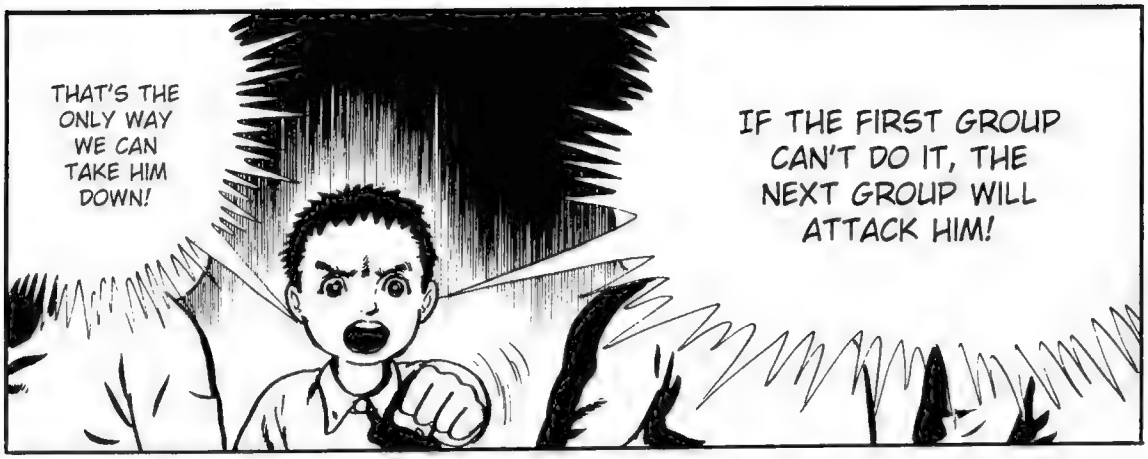

THUD


IT'S THE ONLY FOOD WE HAVE!
WE HAVE TO HIDE OUR CANDY BEFORE SEKIYA SHOWS UP!

WE'RE *ALL* SCARED! BUT WE HAVE TO PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER!

IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, HE'LL GO AFTER THE KIDS IN THE LOWER GRADES NEXT!
WE'LL HIDE BY THE DOOR AND WHEN SEKIYA COMES IN, WE'LL GET HIM!

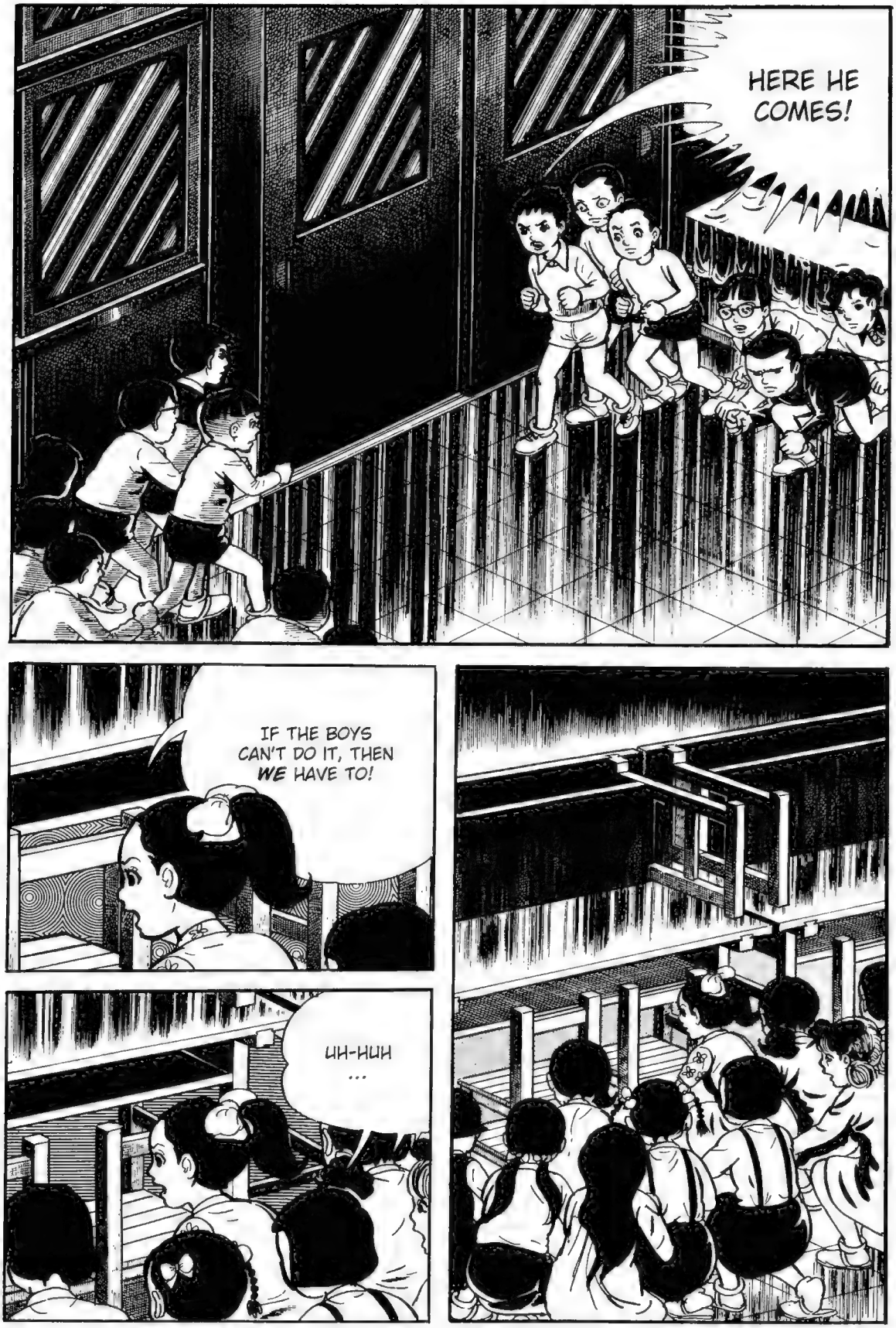

...GRAB HIS ARMS AND LEGS, AND PULL HIM DOWN!
WE'LL SPLIT UP INTO GROUPS OF THREE...


THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TAKE HIM DOWN!
IF THE FIRST GROUP CAN'T DO IT, THE NEXT GROUP WILL ATTACK HIM!

THE BOYS SPLIT INTO GROUPS OF THREE.

MOTHER, I KNOW IT PROBABLY SOUNDS WEIRD THAT SIXTH GRADERS WOULD DO THIS...

THE GIRLS PILED THE DESKS INTO A BARRICADE.

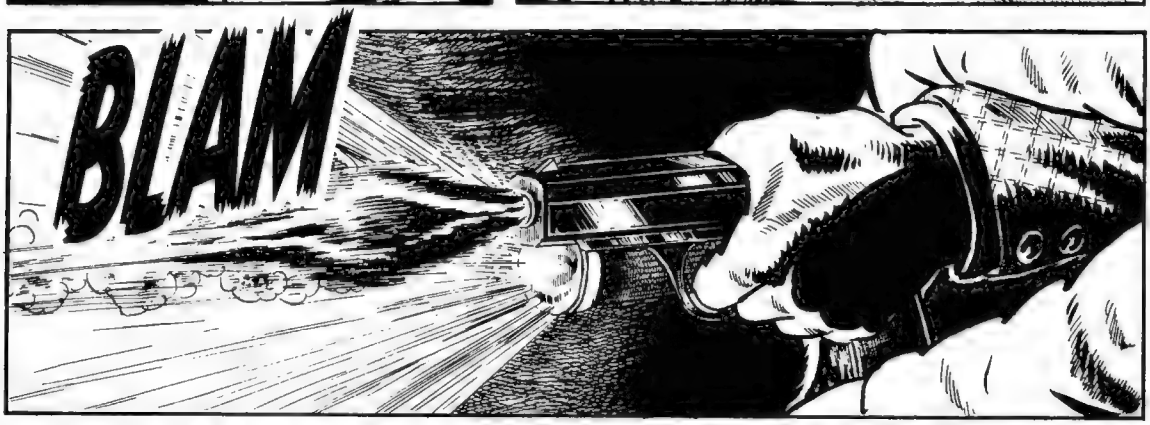

HERE HE COMES!
IF THE BOYS CAN'T DO IT, THEN *WE* HAVE TO!
UH-HUH ...

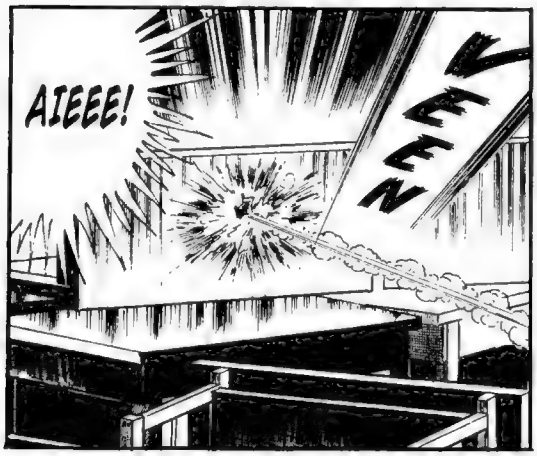
SHFF
OPEN UP!
THUMP
HUH!?

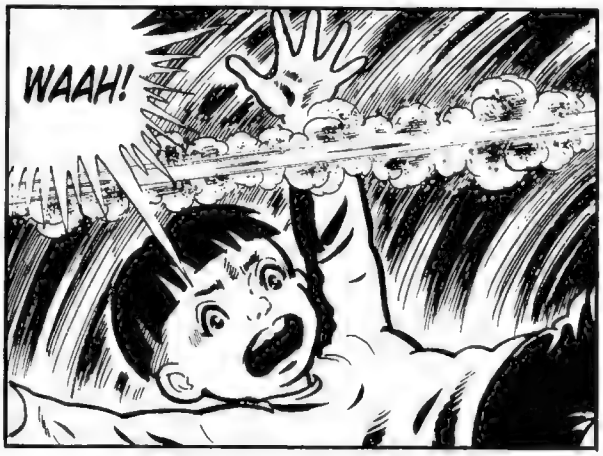
WHA-?!
NOW! GET HIM!

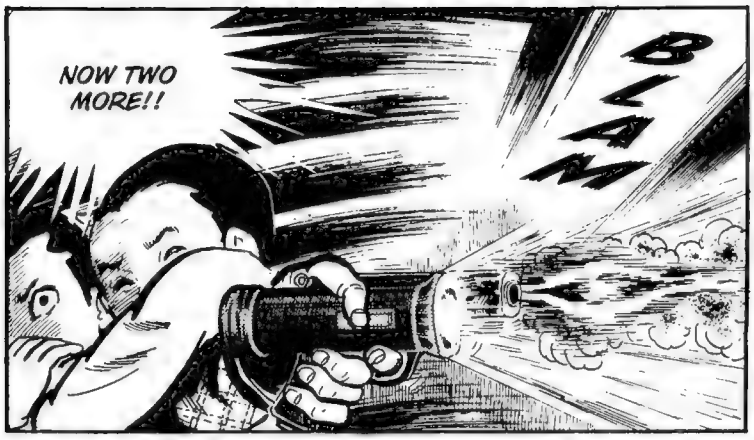
LET GO!!

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

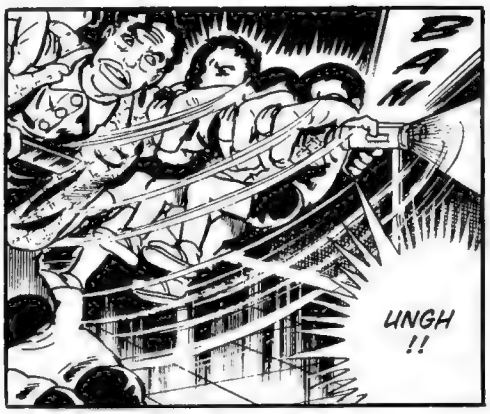

BLAM

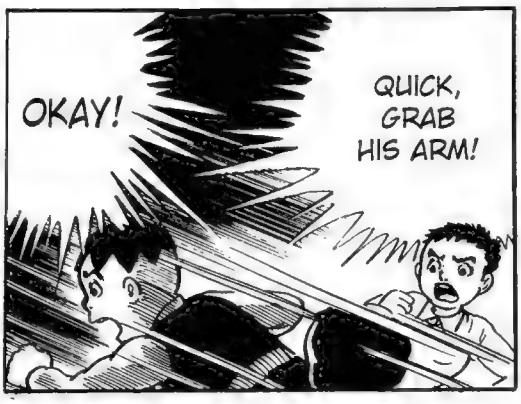

AIEEE!
VEEN

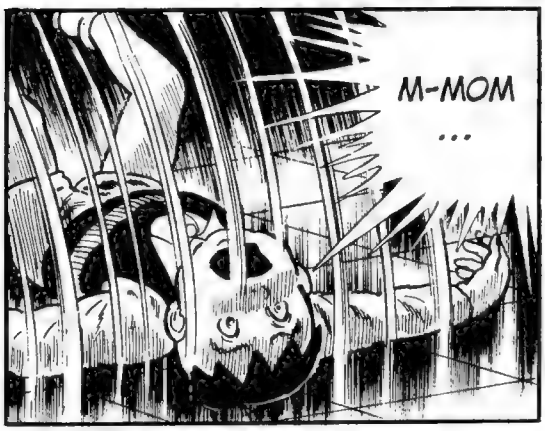

WAAH!


NOW TWO MORE!!
BLAM

WE NEED THREE MORE!


BAH
UNGH !!


OKAY!
QUICK, GRAB HIS ARM!


M-MOM ...

BLAM

UNFF!
KRAK

YOU BASTARD!

YOSHIDA!

YOU SON OF A BITCH!

YOU LITTLE BRATS!

I'M GONNA KILL YOU ALL!
THAT'S IT!

THOK

WHAM

CHOMP

GET HIM!
WE'RE NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!

KRAK
WHAM

BLAMM

HAK
HOK

WE TIED HIM UP WITH SOME ROPE FROM THE CLASSROOM.

HE'S PINNED DOWN! NOW TIE HIM UP!!
WE GOT HIM!

I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

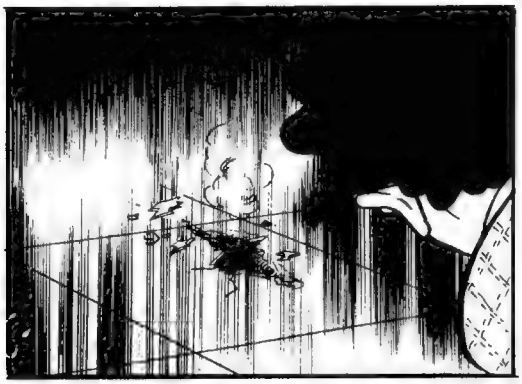
THERE'S ONE BULLET LEFT!

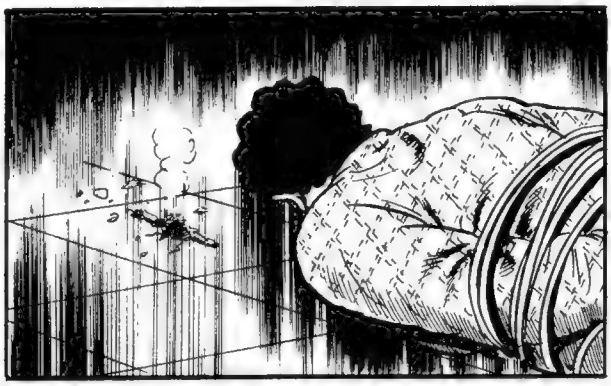
NO! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN IT!

NO!

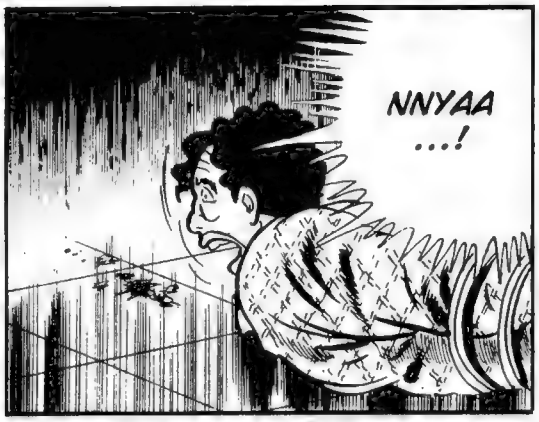
I WAS WRONG! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME! PLEASE!

NOOO !!!
THIS LAST BULLET IS FOR YOU!
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME!
IKEGAKI! WAIT...!
NOOO !!!
I JUST WANTED TO LIVE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
BLAMM!





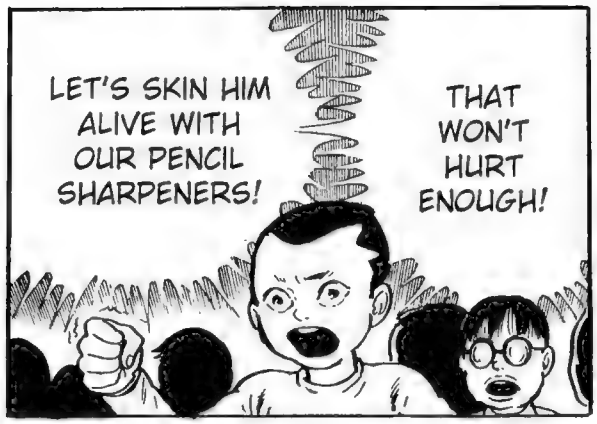
I MISSED !!
DAMN IT!!

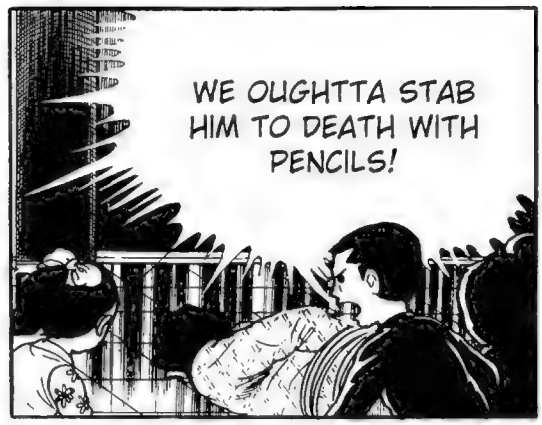

NNYAA ...!

HERE'S ALL THE CANDY AND SNACKS HE TOOK FROM THE OTHER CLASSES.

Y... YEAH.

YOSHIDA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?


LET'S SKIN HIM ALIVE WITH OUR PENCIL SHARPENERS!
THAT WON'T HURT ENOUGH!


WE OUGHTTA STAB HIM TO DEATH WITH PENCILS!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS, WE CAN FINALLY EAT LUNCH!!

HOLD ON, YOU GUYS! IF WE DO THAT WE'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM SEKIYA!

THAT'S WHERE HE HID OUR LUNCHES!
LOOK! I FOUND THE STORAGE ROOM KEY IN HIS POCKET!

WE CAN EAT!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!

ACKK!
PTOO

SHUT UP!!

THAT BREAD'S MINE!
HEY, THAT'S MINE!

AGGH!
WHAM
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

W-WAIT... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!

WE WENT DOWN TO THE KITCHEN.

DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET YOUR SHARE.

PLEASE DON'T KEEP ME LIKE THIS! PLEASE HELP ME!

HOORAY!

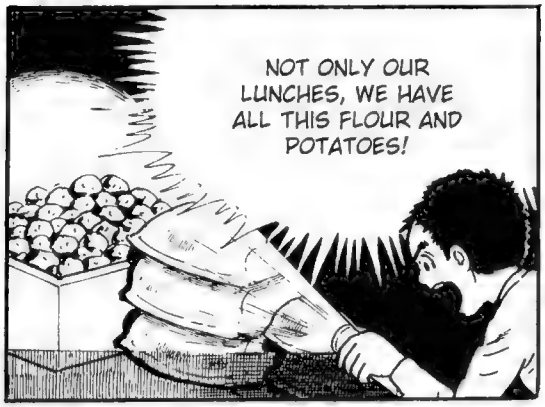
IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE!
KREEK

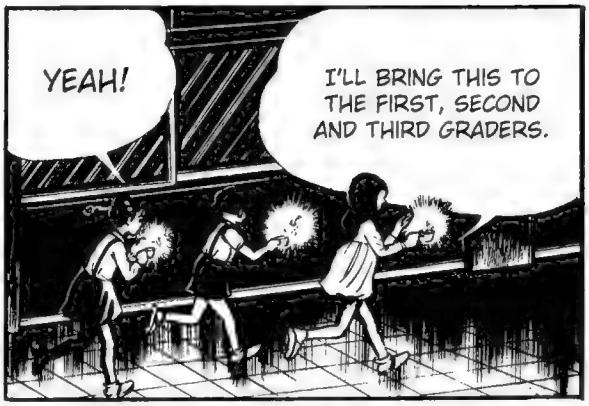
WE'VE GOT TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS!

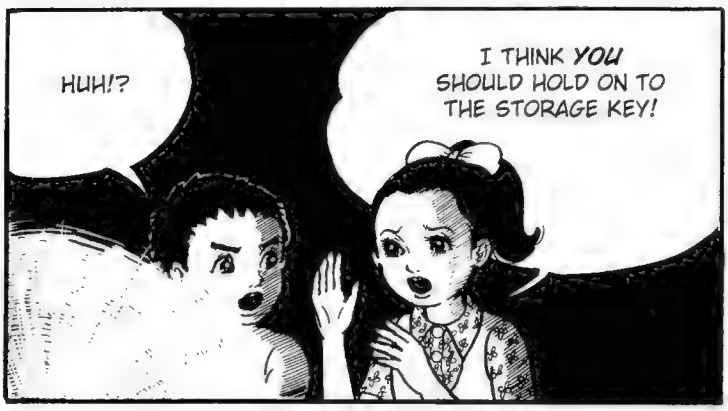
WE HAVE LIGHT!

I MADE A LAMP OUT OF A COFFEE CUP.
LOOK!

NOW WE HAVE MATCHES AND OIL. WE CAN MAKE LAMPS IF WE CUT UP SOME STRIPS OF CLOTH.


NOT ONLY OUR LUNCHES, WE HAVE ALL THIS FLOUR AND POTATOES!


YEAH!
I'LL BRING THIS TO THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD GRADERS.


HUH!?
I THINK YOU SHOULD HOLD ON TO THE STORAGE KEY!

SHO! I WAS THINKING...

...BUT EVENTUALLY SOME PEOPLE MIGHT START ACTING LIKE SEKIYA. IT COULD GET EVEN WORSE...

WELL, EVERYONE'S HAPPY RIGHT NOW...

WHY ME?

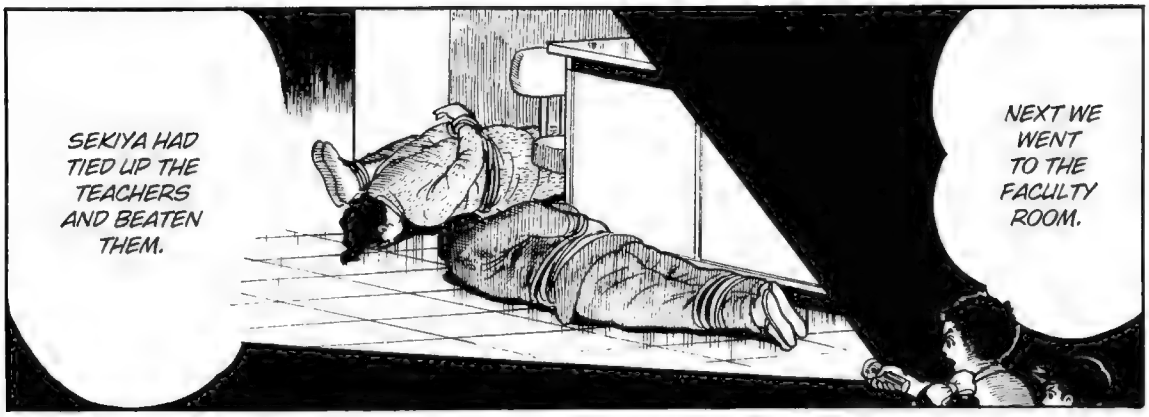
...I CAN'T SAY IT! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE!

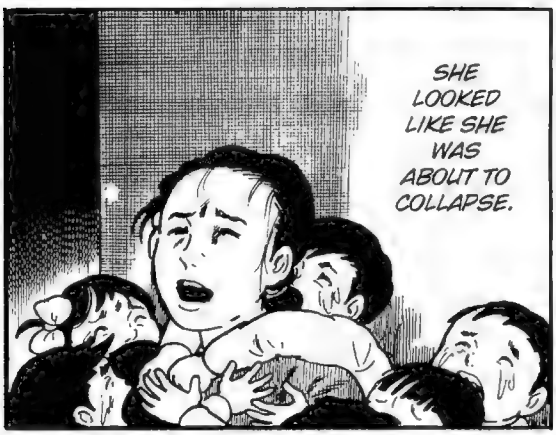
DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE WAR TO THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE STRANDED IN NEW GUINEA? THEY WERE SO HUNGRY THEY ATE....

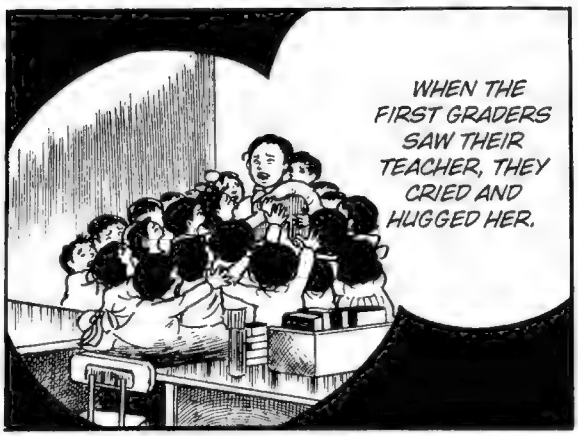
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "EVEN WORSE"?

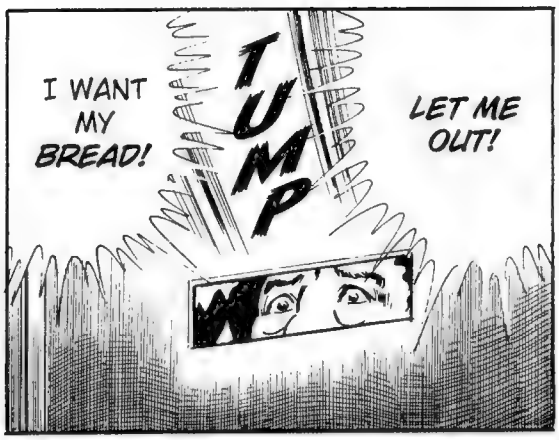
WE CAN'T GIVE UP! WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SURVIVE!

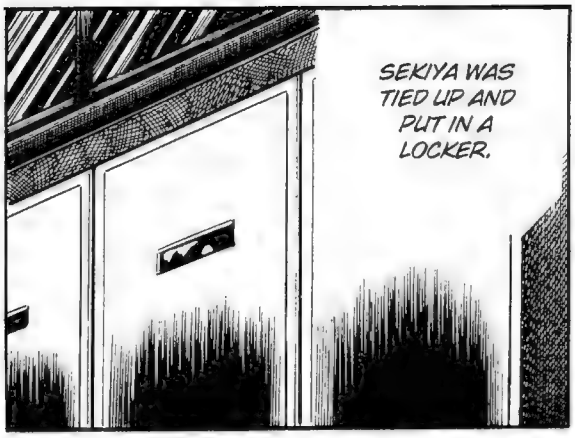
SAKI! IT'S OKAY!


SEKIYA HAD TIED UP THE TEACHERS AND BEATEN THEM.
NEXT WE WENT TO THE FACULTY ROOM.


SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE.

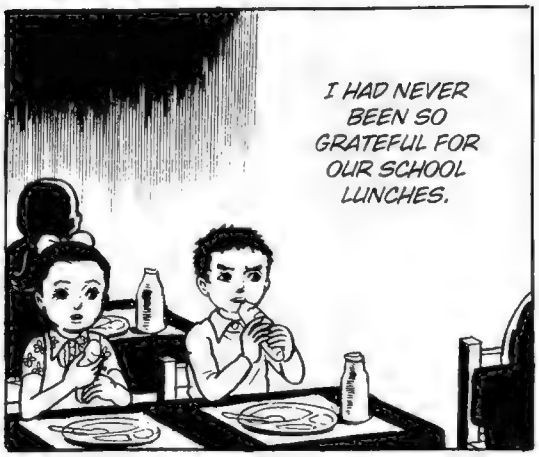

WHEN THE FIRST GRADERS SAW THEIR TEACHER, THEY CRIED AND HUGGED HER.

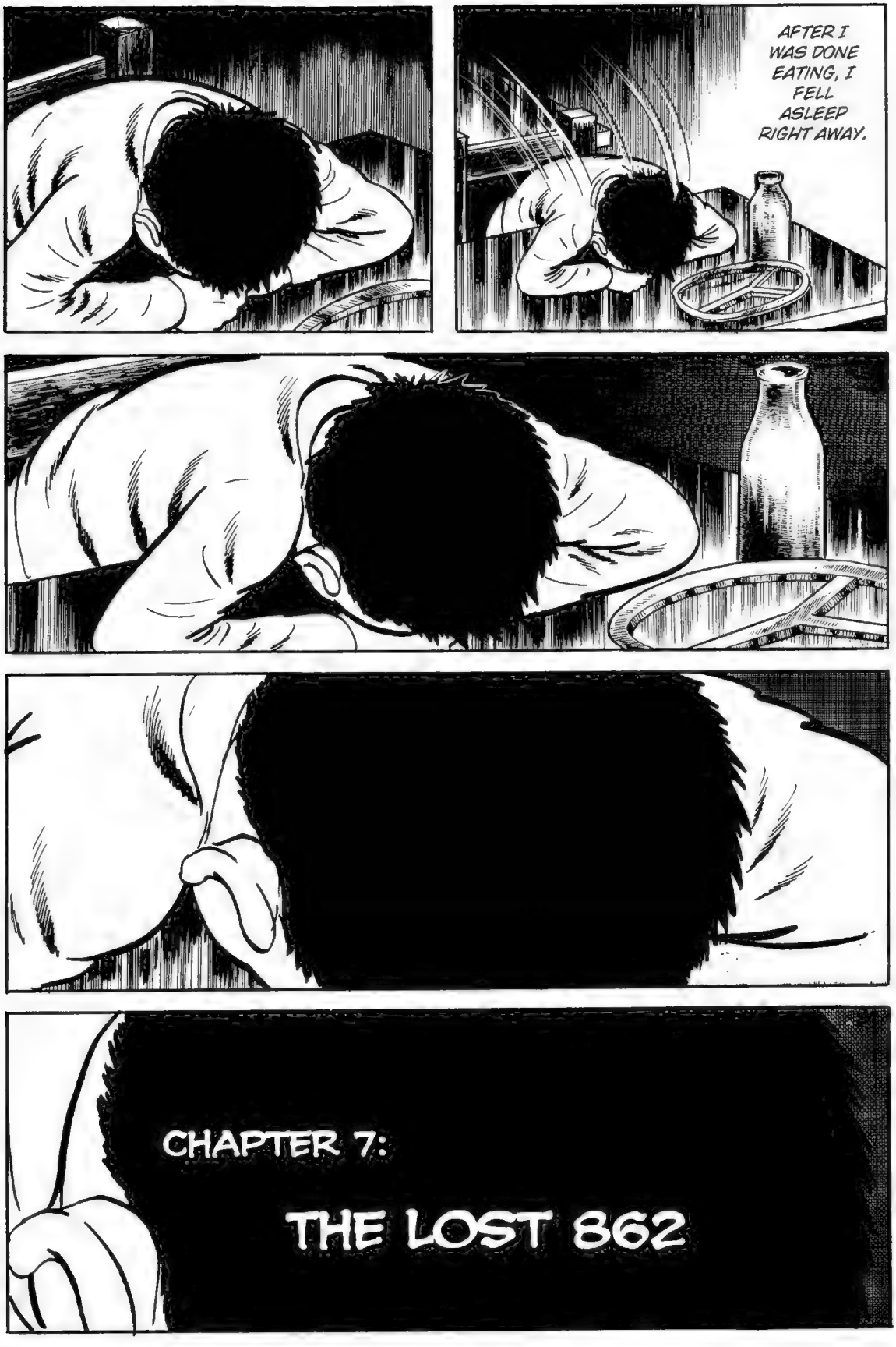

I WANT MY BREAD!
TUMP
LET ME OUT!

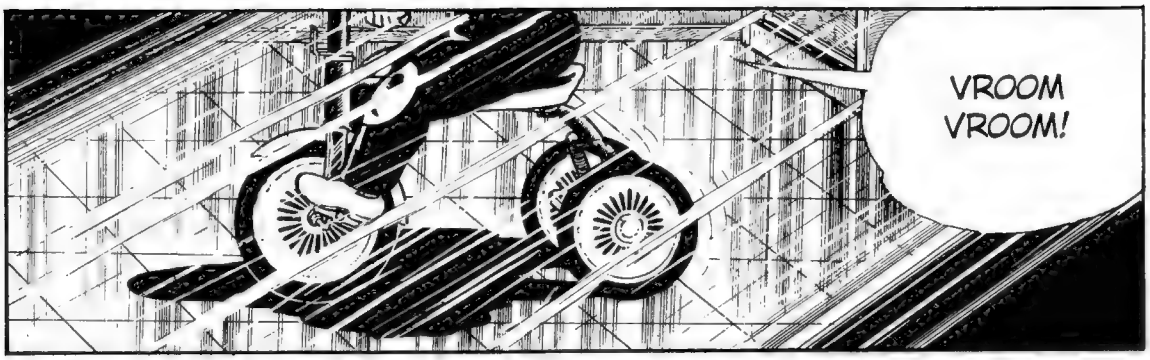

SEKIYA WAS TIED UP AND PUT IN A LOCKER.

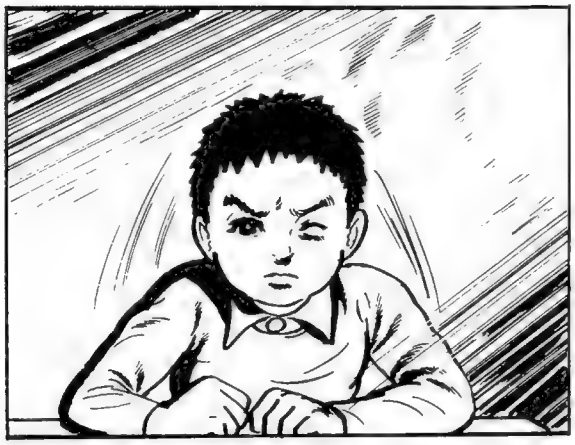
AND SO, WE FINALLY MANAGED TO HAVE OUR LUNCH.

MOTHER...IT MADE ME THINK OF HOW I NEVER THANKED YOU FOR COOKING FOR ME. I'M SO SORRY...I'M SO SORRY...


I HAD NEVER BEEN SO GRATEFUL FOR OUR SCHOOL LUNCHES.


AFTER I WAS DONE EATING, I FELL ASLEEP RIGHT AWAY.
CHAPTER 7:
THE LOST 862


VROOM VROOM!



HONK HONK! VROOM!

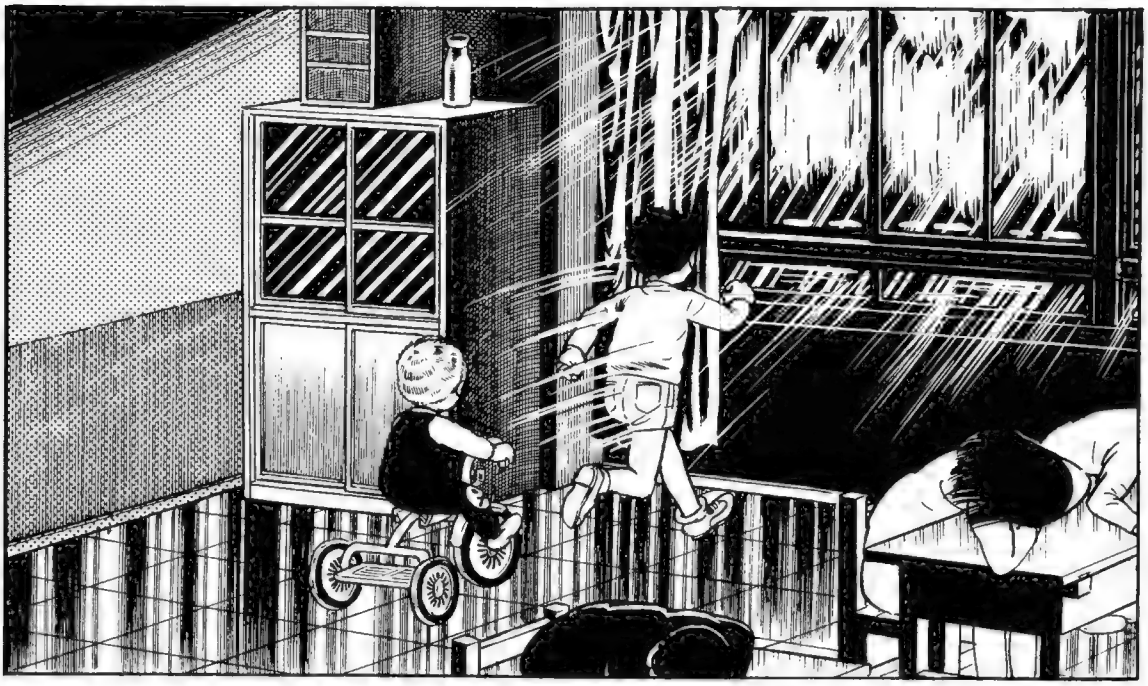
GOOD MORNING!

HUH!?
THE SUN LOOKS FUNNY TODAY.

I GOT UP EARLY.

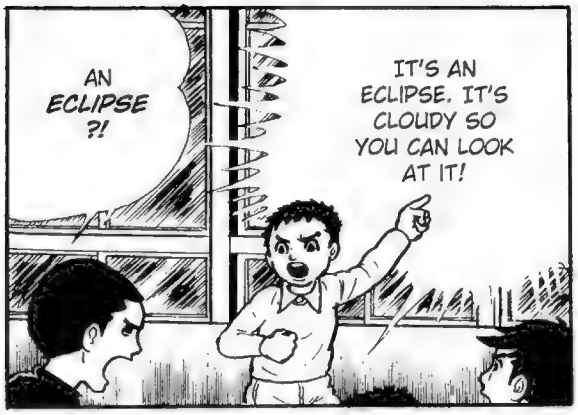
WHERE? LET ME SEE!

IT "LOOKS FUNNY"?



WHAT !?
SHFF

AN ECLIPSE!


AN ECLIPSE ?!
IT'S AN ECLIPSE. IT'S CLOUDY SO YOU CAN LOOK AT IT!

WH-WHAT IS IT?!
HEY, EVERYONE, WAKE UP!

BUT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A LOT LATER...WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE ONE TODAY.
BUT THAT'S WEIRD. WE LEARNED IN SCIENCE CLASS WHEN THE NEXT ECLIPSE WAS GOING TO BE...

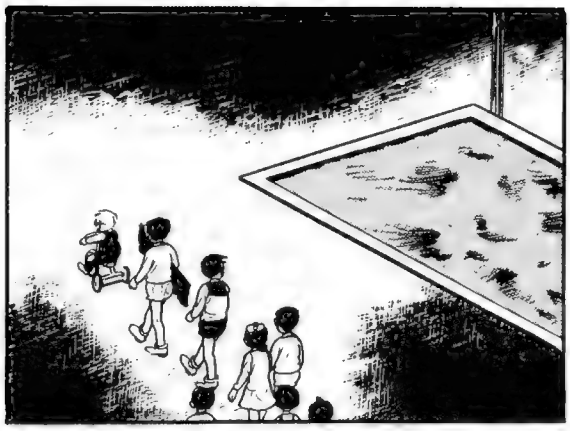
OOH!

I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT MAYBE...
SO I AM RIGHT ...

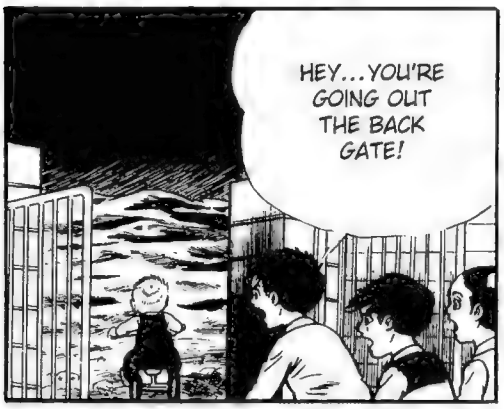
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!

HUH!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?
WHAT ?!
MAYBE WE WERE THE ONES THAT VANISHED INSTEAD!
...EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL DIDN'T JUST VANISH.
BUT IF I'M RIGHT, THEN IT'S REALLY BAD FOR US, EVEN WORSE THAN A NUCLEAR WAR.
I'M NOT SURE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON?
SKWEEK SKWEEK
THIS WAY. OVER HERE!
WE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING OUT.
REMEMBER THIS SIGN? I WANT TO GO SEE WHERE YU FOUND THIS.
OKAY.
YU, CAN YOU SHOW US WHERE YOU FOUND THIS? IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.



IN THE SANDBOX.


HEY...YOU'RE GOING OUT THE BACK GATE!

SHH!!

BUT WE JUST PASSED THE SANDBOX...

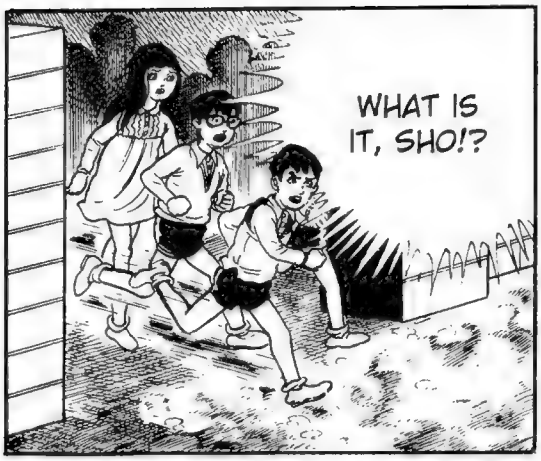
WAIT!

I CAN'T RIDE MY TRICYCLE IN THE SAND.

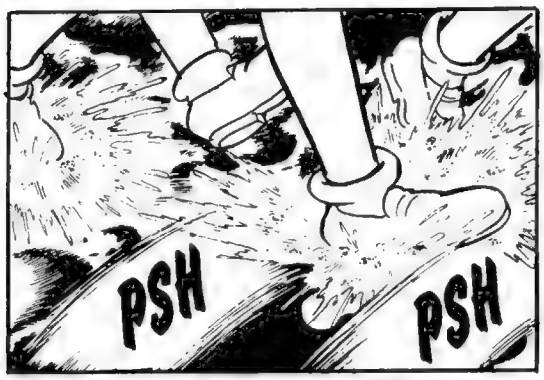
IT'S DANGER-OUS!!
WH-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

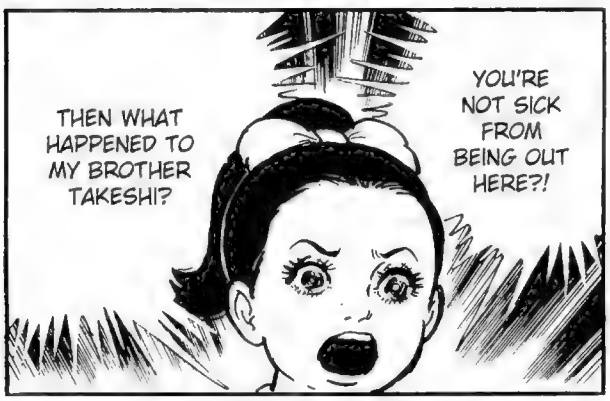
WH-
WHAT!?
THIS IS THE SANDBOX. I PLAYED HERE ALL DAY YESTERDAY.
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU STOPPING?
UH-HUH. OVER HERE.
YOU PLAYED HERE ALL DAY?!
IT HAS WRITING ON IT.
PSH
PSH
SHO! WAIT!

大和小学校の
862人の霊ここに
ねむる
大和小学校の
862人の霊ここに
ねむる
"HERE REST THE
862 SOULS OF
YAMATO
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL..."
大和小学校
862人の霊
ねむる


WHAT IS IT, SHO!?

THAT'S US!!
THE 862 SOULS !?


PSH
PSH


THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER TAKESHI?
YOU'RE NOT SICK FROM BEING OUT HERE?!

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

TAKESHI!

LOOK AT THIS!
大和小学校の
862人

WHAT !?
WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE FUTURE!!
大和小学校の
862人の霊ここに
ねむる

"HERE REST THE 862 SOULS OF YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL." THAT'S *US!*

大和小学校の
862人の

LET'S KEEP DIGGING UNTIL WE CAN SEE THE REST OF THE SIGN!
NO WAY! *THAT'S CRAZY!*

HEY!!

大和小学校の
862人の

SEE?!

THE SIGN SHOULD FIT HERE!

LOOK! IT'S GOT EVERYBODY'S NAME!

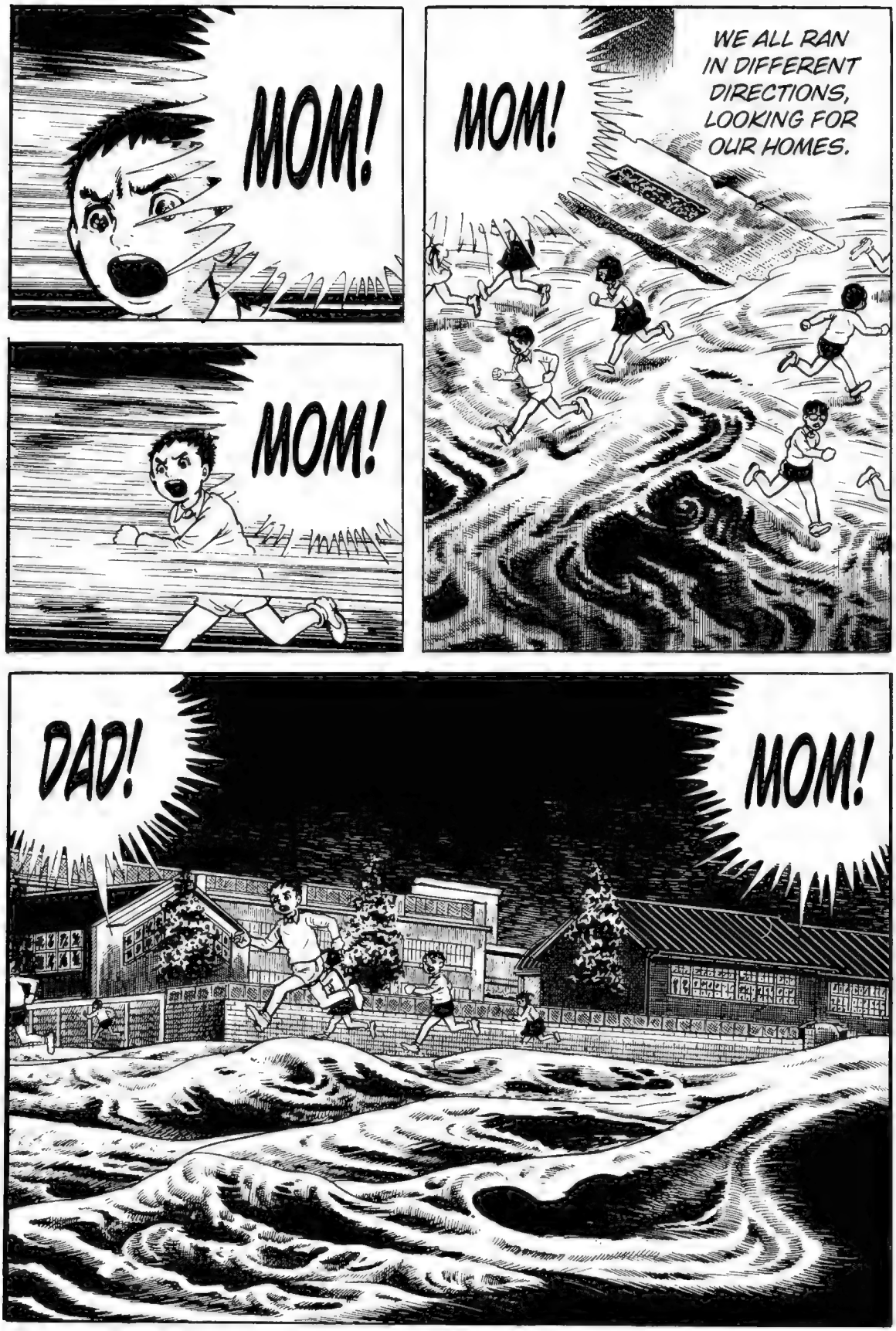
EVERYBODY'S NAME IS WRITTEN DOWN HERE!
THE PRINCIPAL'S NAME...

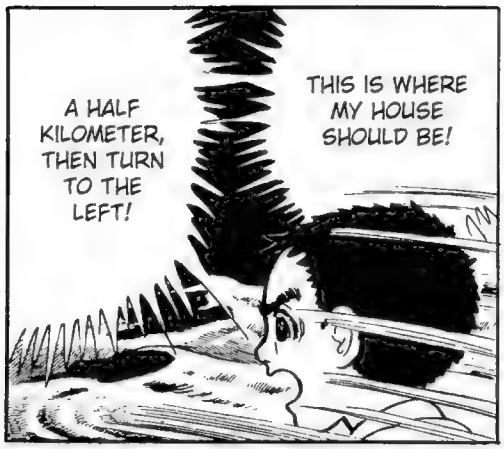
THERE'S MY NAME!
THAT'S ME! SHO TAKAMATSU!

THE FUTURE!

SO WE'RE IN THE FUTURE!

EEYAA!


MOM!
MOM!
MOM!
WE ALL RAN IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, LOOKING FOR OUR HOMES.
DAD!
MOM!


A HALF KILOMETER, THEN TURN TO THE LEFT!
THIS IS WHERE MY HOUSE SHOULD BE!

THE WATCHMAKER WAS HERE, AND THEN THE WALL...

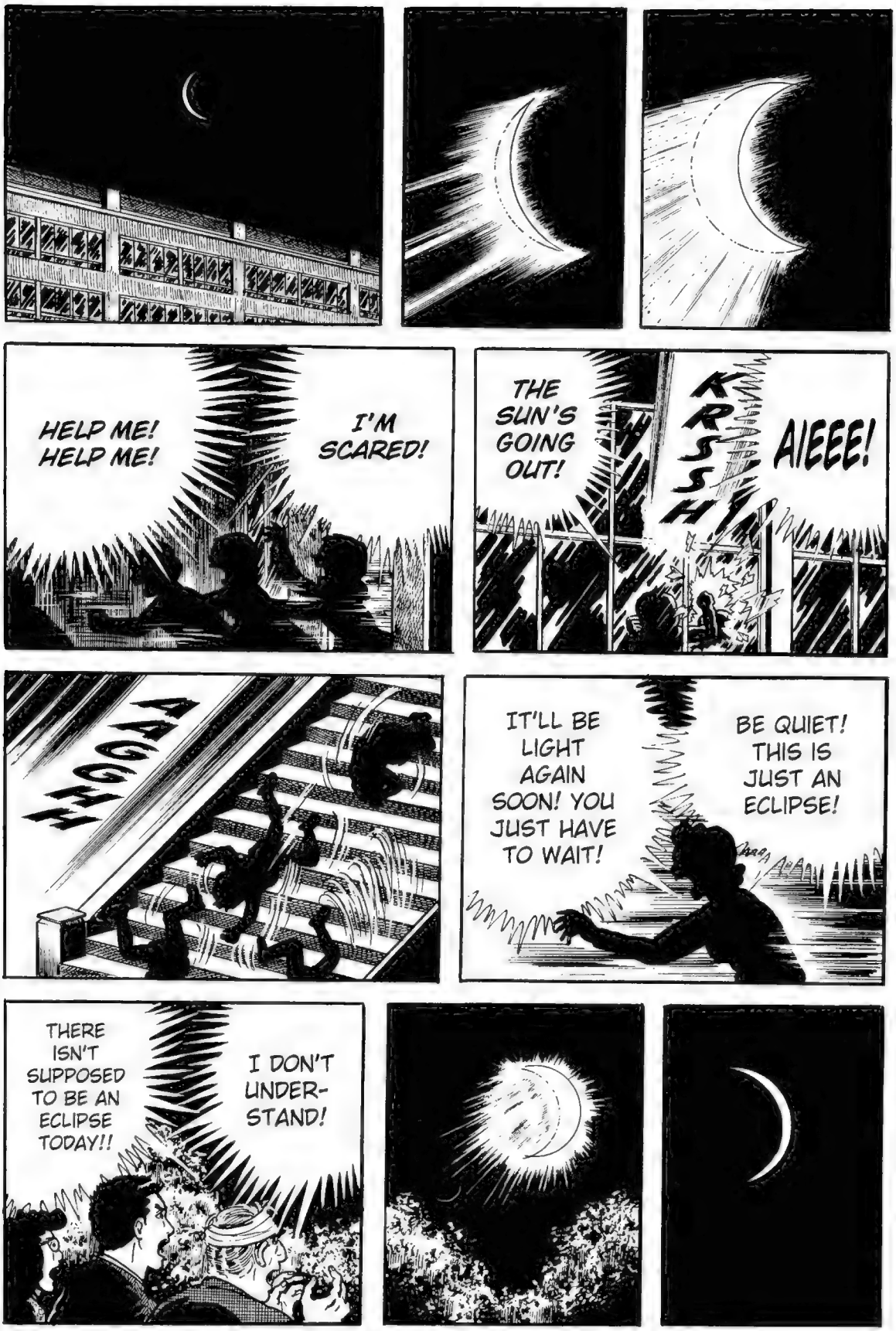
THE GATE WAS RIGHT HERE!
MY HOUSE USED TO BE HERE!

HERE!

MOM!
DAD!

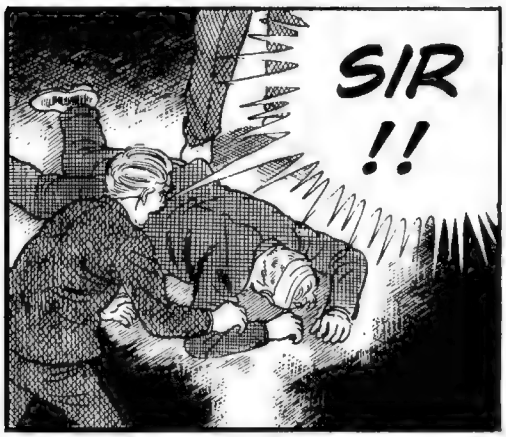
THUD
WAHH
!!

WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

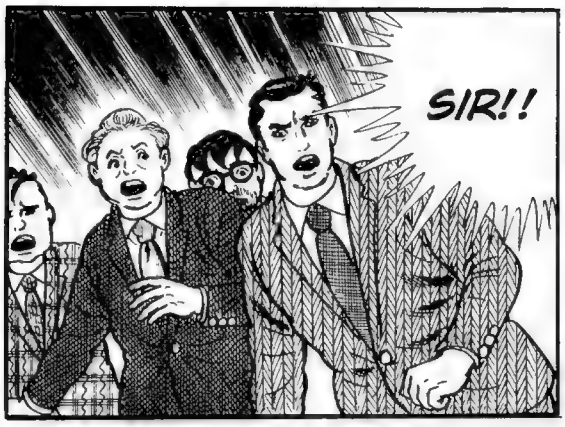

HELP ME! HELP ME!
I'M SCARED!
THE SUN'S GOING OUT!
KRSSSH!
AIEEE!
AGGA
IT'LL BE LIGHT AGAIN SOON! YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT!
BE QUIET! THIS IS JUST AN ECLIPSE!
THERE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE AN ECLIPSE TODAY!!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

TH-THIS IS INSANE!

HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA


SIR !!

HA HA HA HA


SIR!!

HEE HEE!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

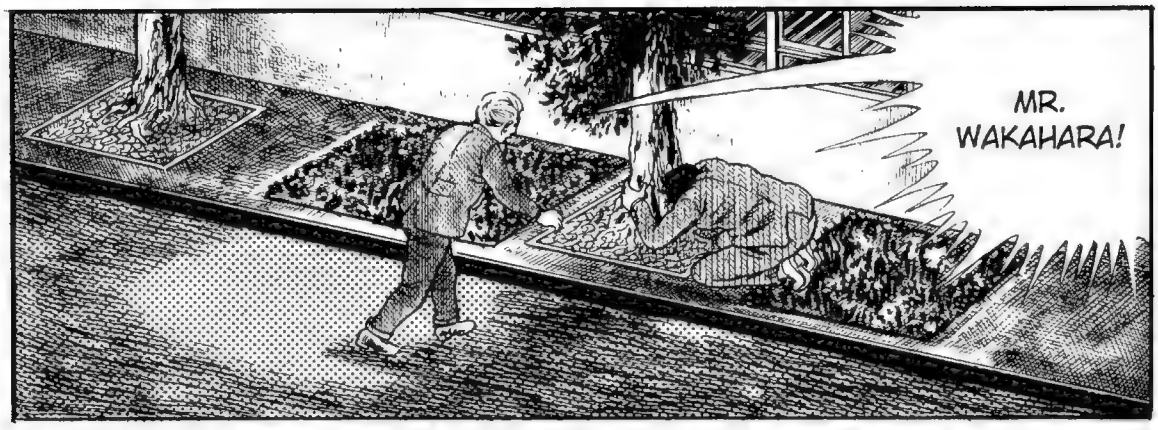
GOODBYE, EVERYONE. I'M SORRY...

SLISSH

NO!

THUD
OH MY GOD... SOMEONE, PLEASE...
I NEED YOU TO DO IT! PLEASE TIE ME UP SO I CAN'T MOVE!!
PLEASE TIE ME UP!

IF YOU DON'T, I MIGHT...
JUST TIE ME UP! PLEASE! DO IT NOW!
MR. WAKAHARA! WHAT'S WRONG!?
MR. WAKAHARA! HAVE YOU...
DO IT NOW!
JUST PLEASE! PLEASE!
THIS TREE...TIE ME TO THIS TREE!
OH NO. IT'S TOO LATE...!

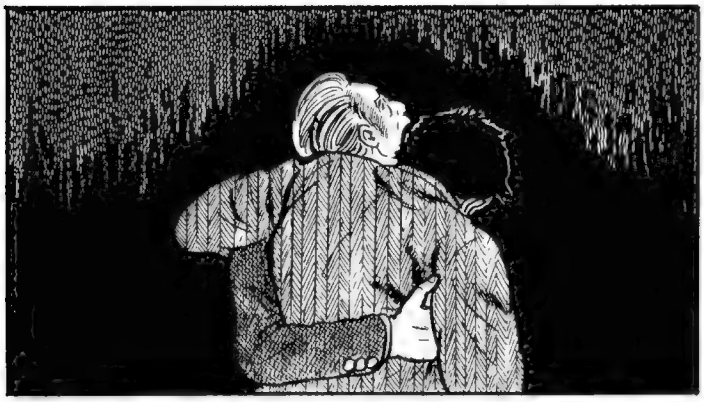

MR. WAKAHARA!

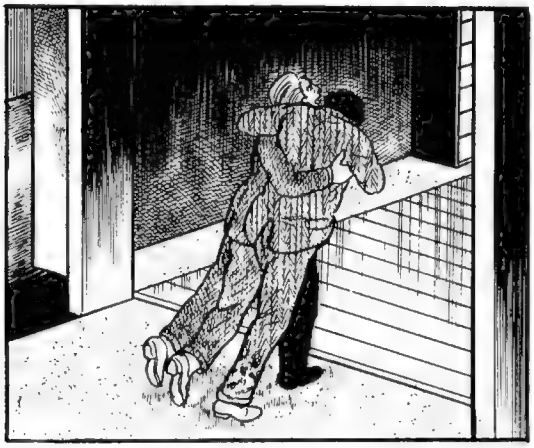
THANK YOU. I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.

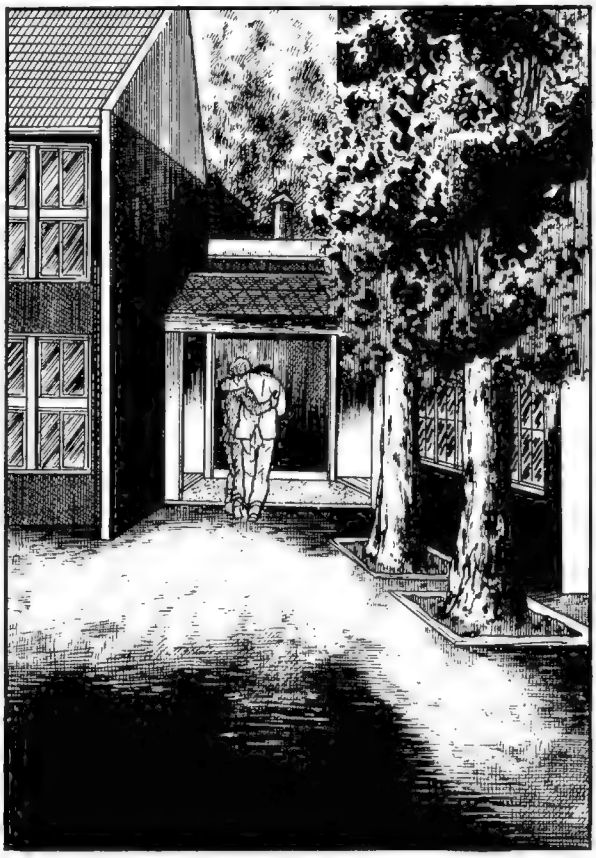
LET'S GO BACK INSIDE.
HERE, LEAN ON ME.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UNGH!

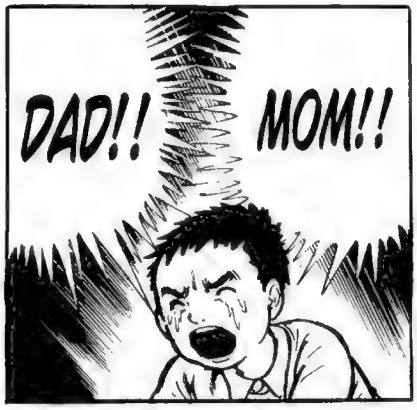






I TOLD YOU TO TIE ME UP.
WHUD
H-HE'S DEAD!
OH MY GOD! WHAT HAPPENED?
MR. WAKAHARA, WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEY!

IT'S GONE!


DAD!!
MOM!!

WHERE DID MOM AND DAD GO!?

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF OUR HOUSE!

SAKI!

EVENTUALLY, I HEADED BACK TO SCHOOL...

SOBB!

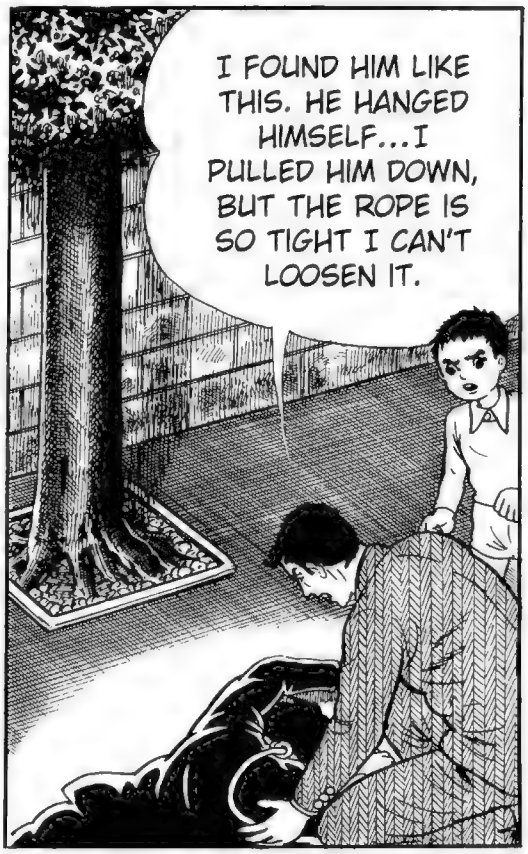
HE FELL BECAUSE HE WAS ALREADY SICK...IF I'D RESCUED HIM, HE MIGHT NOT HAVE DIED...
MY BROTHER WASN'T FEELING WELL, SO HE RAN HOME...

SAKI, WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT !?
THE TEACHERS ARE DEAD! THEY'RE ALL DEAD!
WHAT'S WRONG!?
WAHHH
AIEE !!
OH!
HELLO ?!
W-WE DON'T KNOW!!
HOW'D THEY DIE?!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
MR. WAKAHARA!

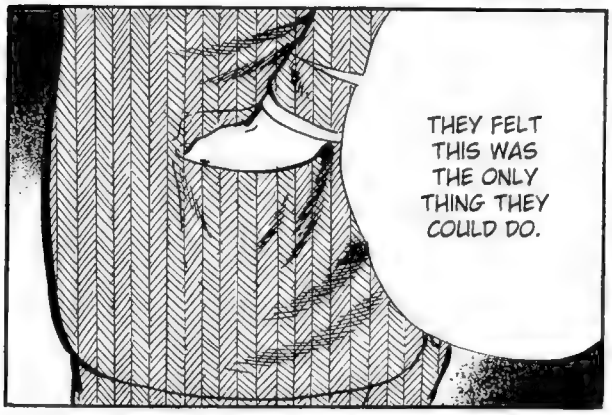
GASP!

WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!?


I FOUND HIM LIKE THIS. HE HANGED HIMSELF...I PULLED HIM DOWN, BUT THE ROPE IS SO TIGHT I CAN'T LOOSEN IT.

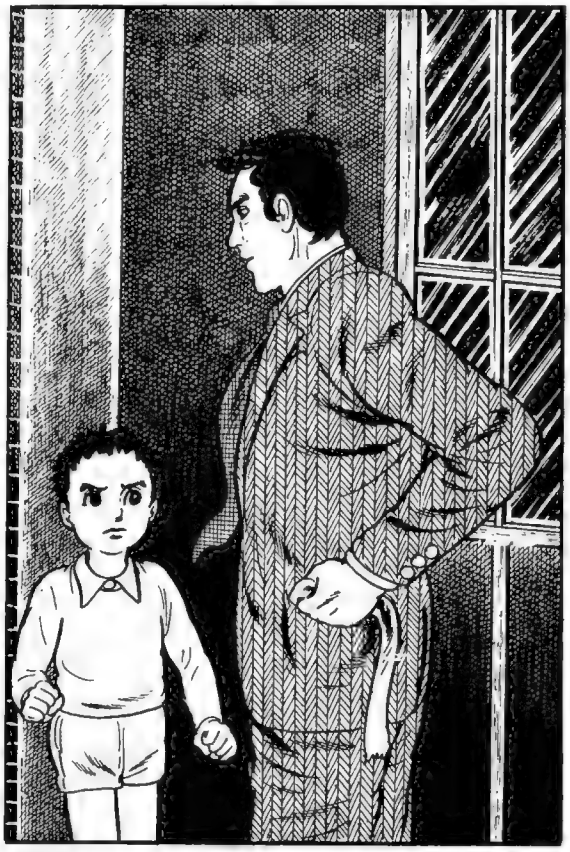
WH-WHY DID THEY ALL KILL THEMSELVES?!

WHAT ?!
WELL, THAT'S SIMPLE. THEY LOST THEIR MINDS...


THEY FELT THIS WAS THE ONLY THING THEY COULD DO.

THE TERROR DESTROYED THEIR SENSE OF REASON.

TAKAMATSU, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?



I WAS DIGGING FOR MY HOUSE.
OH!

LET ME SEE IT.

THERE'S NOTHING BUT SAND!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT WHERE OUR HOUSES USED TO BE!

HEY... IT'S MR. WAKAHARA!!
TAKAMATSU! ARE YOU THERE?

THERE YOU GO.

SOB ...!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
MR. WAKA-HARA!

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THEM...
IS IT TRUE THAT ALL THE TEACHERS ARE DEAD?

COME ON. WE HAVE TO BURY THE DEAD.

I KNOW. I TOLD YOU I'D BE YOUR FATHER. NOW YOU MUST DO YOUR BEST TO SURVIVE!

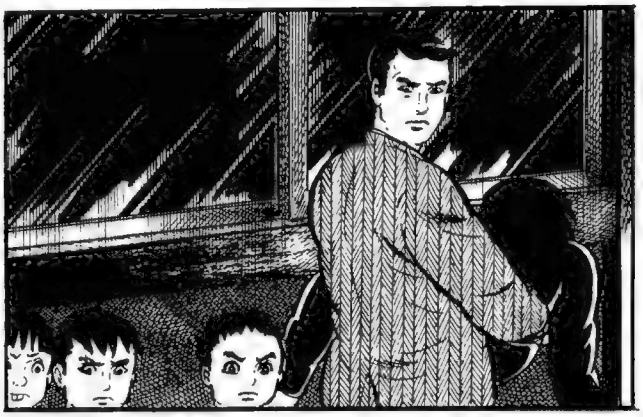
HEY!

WE COULDN'T BELIEVE OUR TEACHERS COULD HAVE DIED SO EASILY.
WE WERE ALL IN SHOCK...

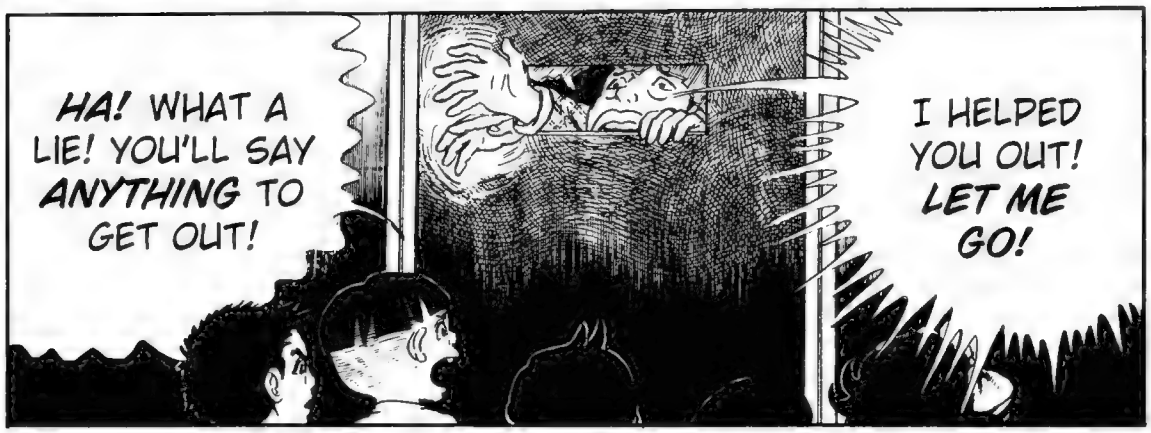
HE'S A MURDERER!

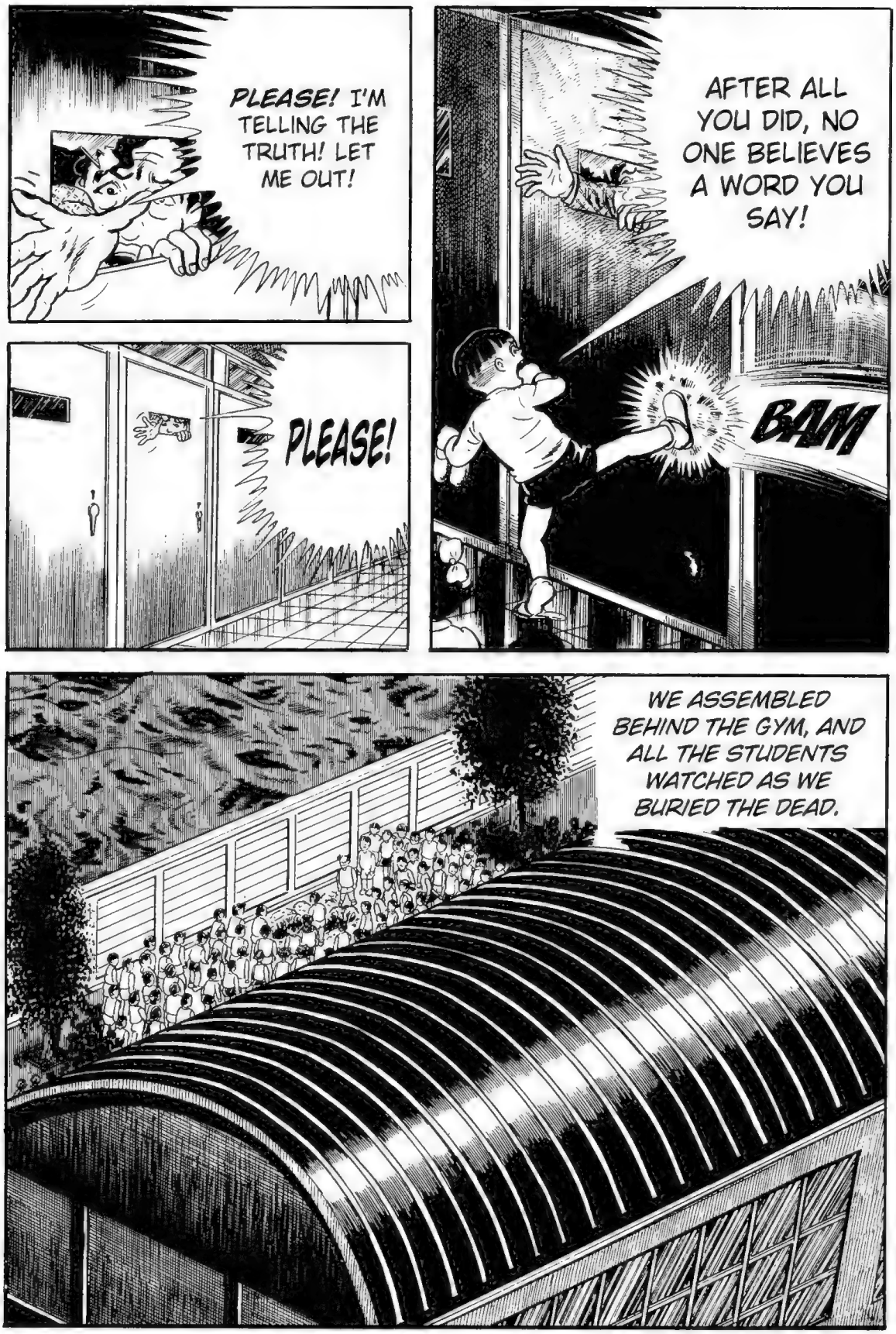
EVERYONE! MR. WAKAHARA IS A MURDERER! I SAW HIM CHOKE ANOTHER TEACHER RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

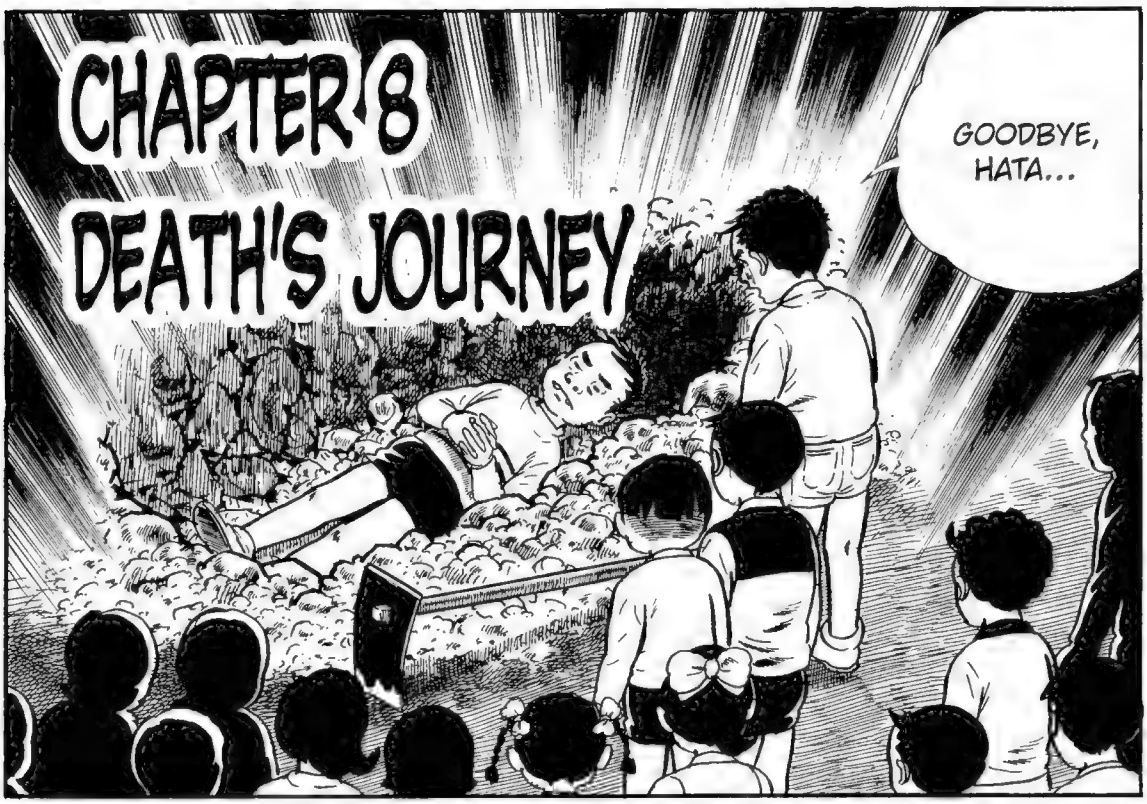
IF YOU DON'T, HE'LL KILL US ALL!
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!



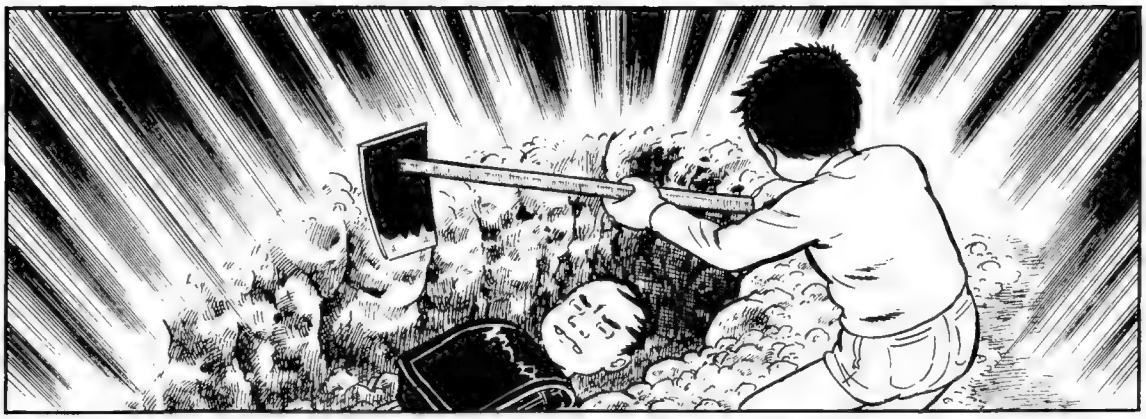
IF YOU DON'T, HE'LL KILL ME!
PLEASE LET ME OUT! LET ME GO!


HA! WHAT A LIE! YOU'LL SAY *ANYTHING* TO GET OUT!
I HELPED YOU OUT! *LET ME GO!*

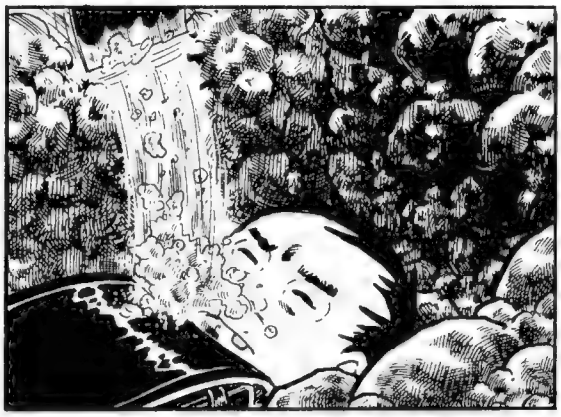

PLEASE! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! LET ME OUT!
PLEASE!
AFTER ALL YOU DID, NO ONE BELIEVES A WORD YOU SAY!
BAM
WE ASSEMBLED BEHIND THE GYM, AND ALL THE STUDENTS WATCHED AS WE BURIED THE DEAD.

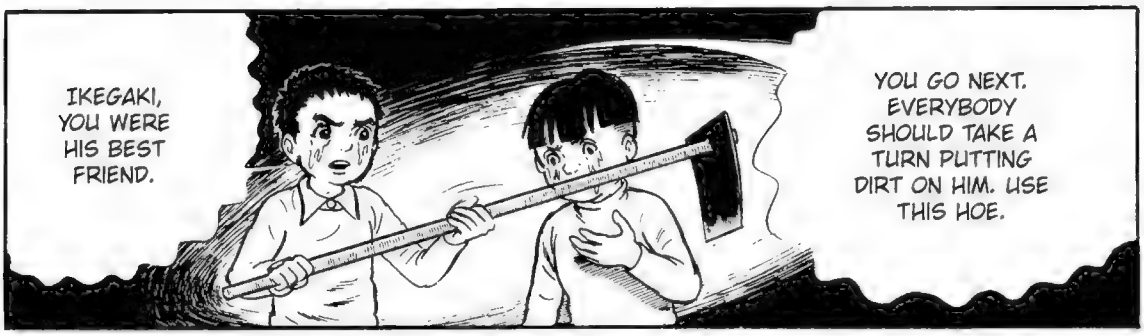

CHAPTER 8
DEATH'S JOURNEY
GOODBYE, HATA...

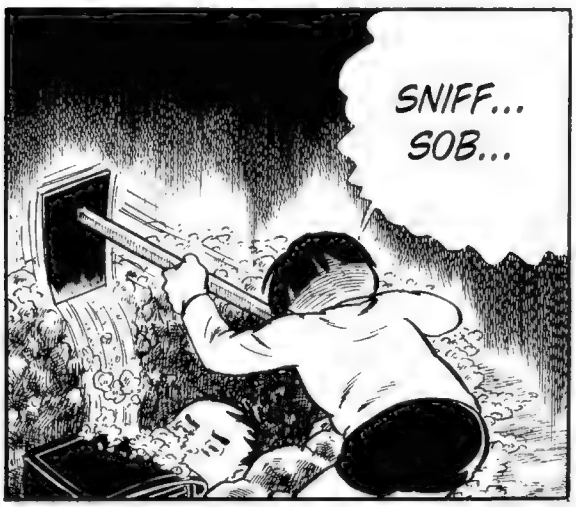
WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU!
THIS IS YOUR SATCHEL.



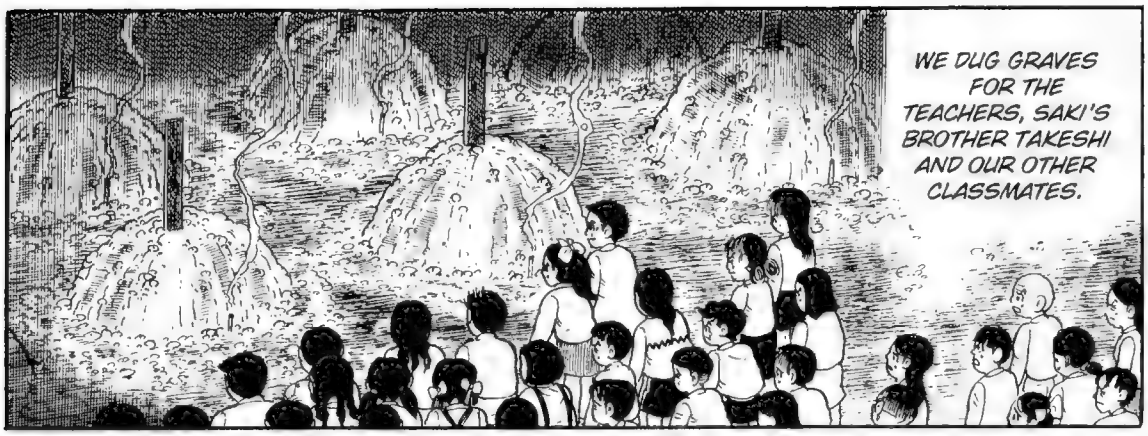
SOB...




IKEGAKI, YOU WERE HIS BEST FRIEND.
YOU GO NEXT. EVERYBODY SHOULD TAKE A TURN PUTTING DIRT ON HIM. USE THIS HOE.

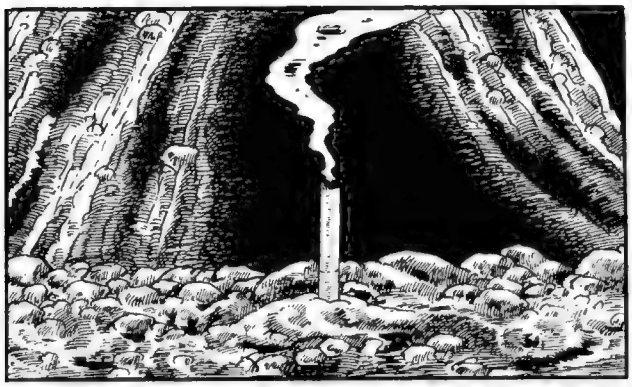

SNIFF... SOB...

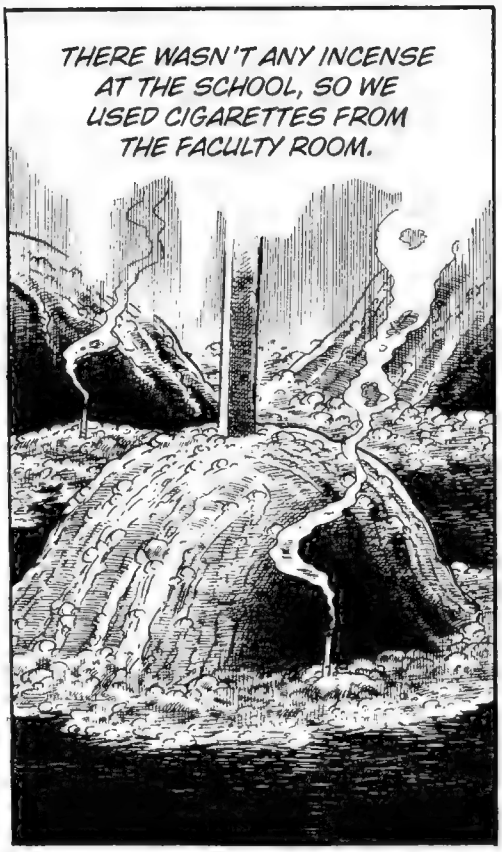
IF I COULD GO HOME, I COULD GIVE YOU SOMETHING... BUT I CAN'T...SO THIS IS ALL I CAN DO...
GOODBYE, HATA...


WE DUG GRAVES FOR THE TEACHERS, SAKI'S BROTHER TAKESHI AND OUR OTHER CLASSMATES.

WAHH !!

TAKESHI !!



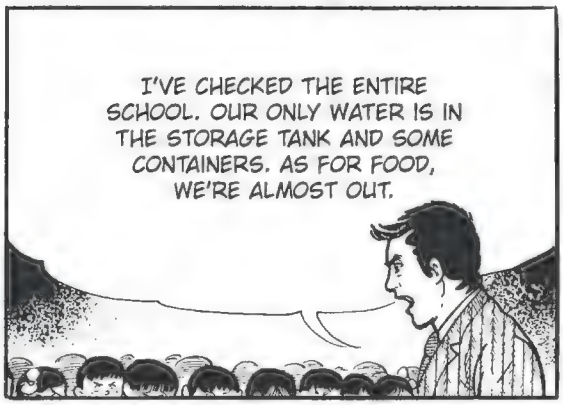

THERE WASN'T ANY INCENSE AT THE SCHOOL, SO WE USED CIGARETTES FROM THE FACULTY ROOM.

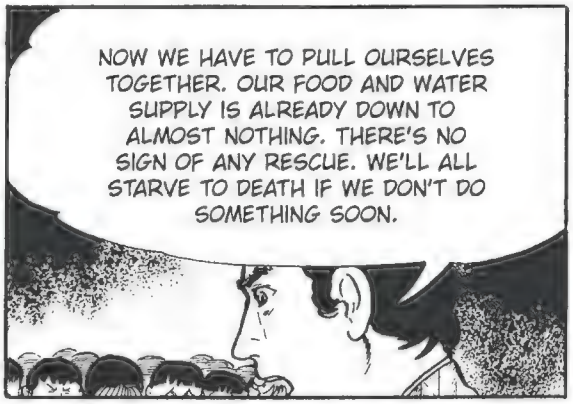
LORD, PLEASE WATCH OVER US.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

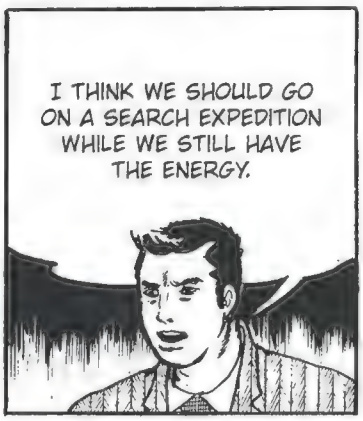
MR. SAKURA!
YAMA-MOTO!
OKUBO!
HATA!

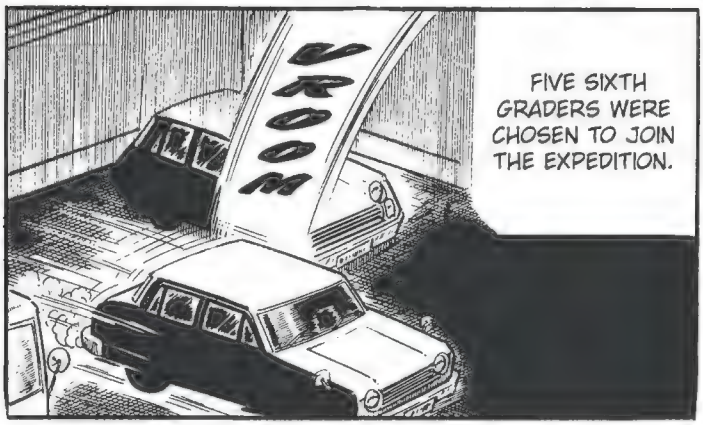
UNNH...!
SOB... SNIFF...


I'VE CHECKED THE ENTIRE SCHOOL. OUR ONLY WATER IS IN THE STORAGE TANK AND SOME CONTAINERS. AS FOR FOOD, WE'RE ALMOST OUT.


NOW WE HAVE TO PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER. OUR FOOD AND WATER SUPPLY IS ALREADY DOWN TO ALMOST NOTHING. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY RESCUE. WE'LL ALL STARVE TO DEATH IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON.

I'D LIKE FIVE OF YOU TO JOIN ME.
FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE SEVERAL CARS. I CAN DRIVE ONE FOR OUR SEARCH.


I THINK WE SHOULD GO ON A SEARCH EXPEDITION WHILE WE STILL HAVE THE ENERGY.

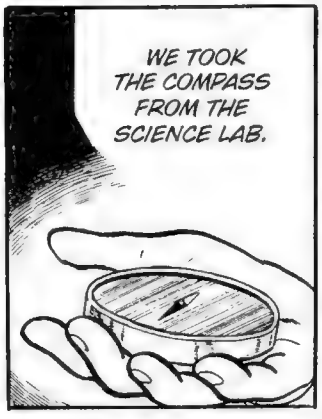

VROOM
FIVE SIXTH GRADERS WERE CHOSEN TO JOIN THE EXPEDITION.

I'LL GO.

VROOOM

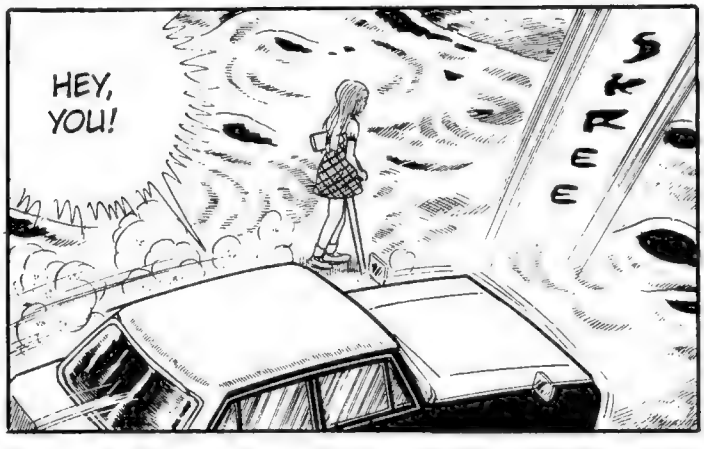
OKAY...!
SAKI, LOOK AFTER YU, OKAY?

GOOD LUCK, SHO!

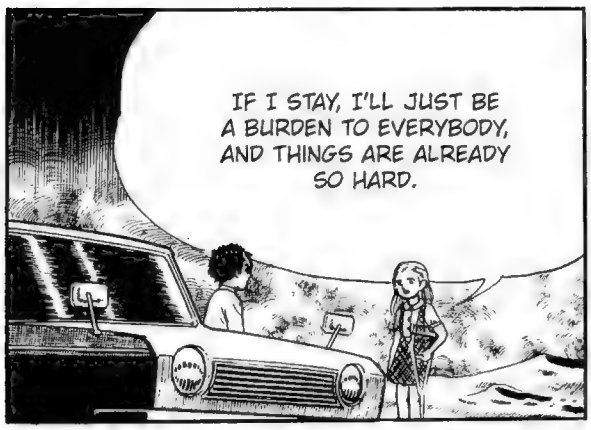

WE TOOK THE COMPASS FROM THE SCIENCE LAB.

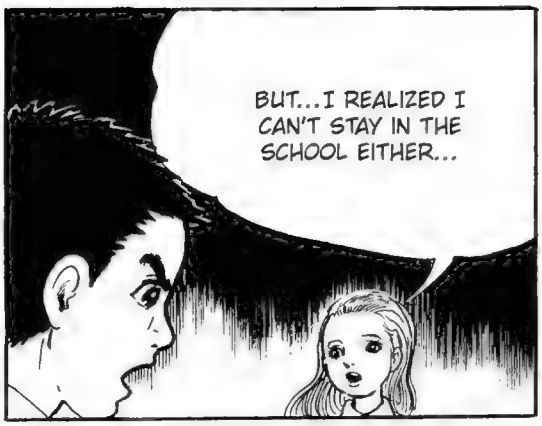
WE DECIDED TO HEAD FOR THE CENTER OF TOWN.

HEY, THERE'S SOMEONE OVER THERE!


HEY, YOU!
SKREE

WHAT!?
I'M AYUMI NISHI FROM THE FIFTH GRADE. I'M WALKING TO NAGANO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CHUD
EVER SINCE THEN I'VE WALKED SLOW, SO I HAVE A HARD TIME MAKING FRIENDS.
YES. WHEN I WAS SMALL I HURT MY BACK FROM FALLING.
BUT...BUT YOU'VE GOT A CRUTCH!
SOME PEOPLE LAUGH AT ME, TOO.
NO ONE WANTS TO PLAY WITH ME...
I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M A BURDEN TO THEM.
IT FEELS REALLY STRANGE.
THEN WE CAME TO THIS PLACE.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMEPLACE WHERE THERE WASN'T ANYBODY ELSE AROUND.


IF I STAY, I'LL JUST BE A BURDEN TO EVERYBODY, AND THINGS ARE ALREADY SO HARD.


BUT...I REALIZED I CAN'T STAY IN THE SCHOOL EITHER...

MY UNCLE IN TOKYO TOOK ME IN.
I WAS BORN IN NAGANO, BUT MY PARENTS DIED SOON AFTER I WAS BORN.

IF I REACH NAGANO I'LL BRING BACK HELP TO RESCUE YOU ALL! I PROMISE!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT NAGANO...I'M SURE THERE ARE STILL FORESTS AND PEOPLE THERE...

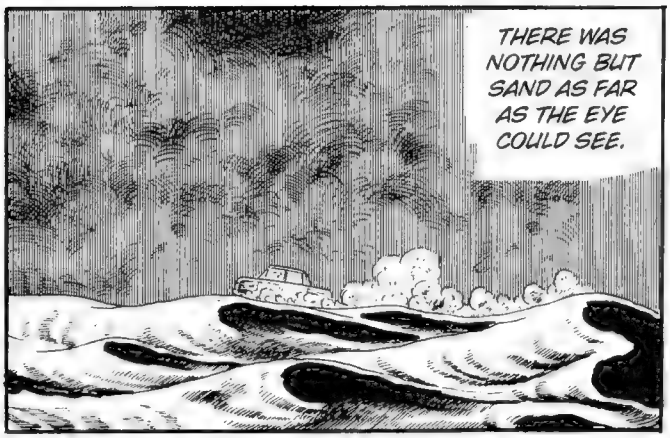
BUT LATELY HE HASN'T BEEN VERY NICE TO ME.

VROOM...

COME ON, GET IN!
CHUD

HUH ?!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? BESIDES, YOU'RE WALKING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!

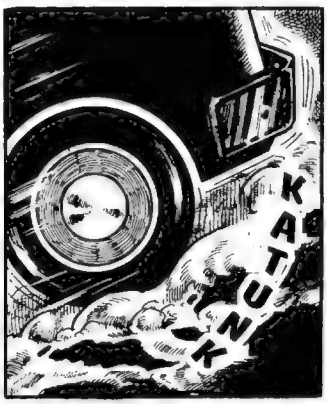
HUH!?


THERE WAS NOTHING BUT SAND AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE.

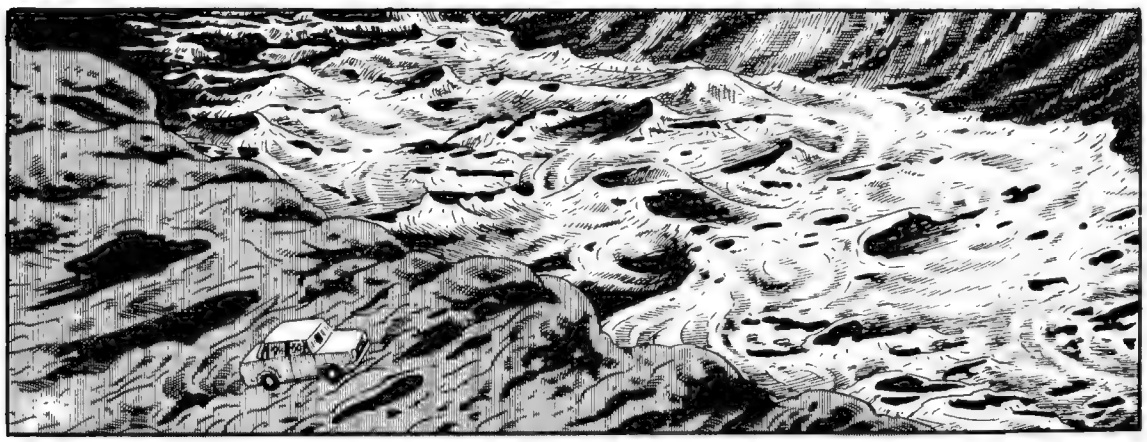
MR. WAKAHARA, WE'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

OH!


KATUNK

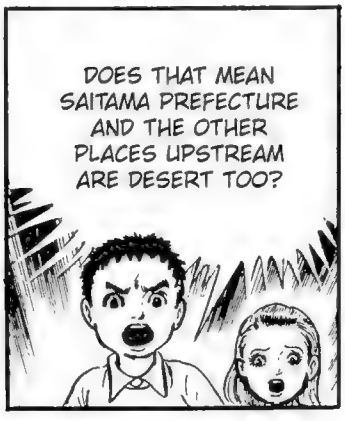
WE'LL END UP IN THE ARAKAWA RIVER! I USED TO PLAY THERE SO I KNOW...



THERE'S NO WATER!
BUT WHERE'S THE RIVER?

SLAM
IT'S THE ARAKAWA RIVER! I WAS RIGHT!

OH NO...!


DOES THAT MEAN SAITAMA PREFECTURE AND THE OTHER PLACES UPSTREAM ARE DESERT TOO?

IT MUST HAVE DRIED UP!

LOOK!! THAT'S WHERE THE BRIDGE USED TO BE!

WE'RE IN THE FUTURE... BUT EVERYTHING'S TOTALLY DESTROYED...!

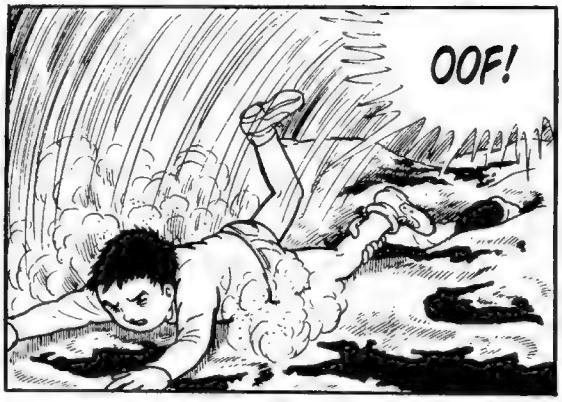
THAT'S RIGHT! THE BRIDGE TURNED TO SAND!

IT'S JUST A PLASTIC FLOWER!
AGGH! IT'S NOT REAL!
WHAT ?!
HEY, LOOK! A FLOWER!
THERE'S PLASTIC AND POLYESTER AND STUFF, EVEN THOUGH EVERY-THING ELSE HAS TURNED TO SAND!!
LOOK, OVER HERE! THERE'S ALL THIS TRASH!
HEY, ANDO!!
THAT'S WEIRD. YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S GONE!
...AND THAT PRODUCES TOXIC GAS.
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY'RE NOT BIODEGRADEABLE. THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THEM IS TO BURN THEM...
WHERE'D ANDO GO? HE WAS RIGHT WITH US!
HEY!!

ANDO! WHERE ARE YOU?

AGH!
WOSH

IT'S ALL RIGHT!! I'LL TAKE THIS OFF!
NNGGH ...


OOF!

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?!

ANDO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT!?
MR. WAKAHARA DID IT! HE TOOK IT OFF THE GROUND AND TRIED TO SMOTHER ME!

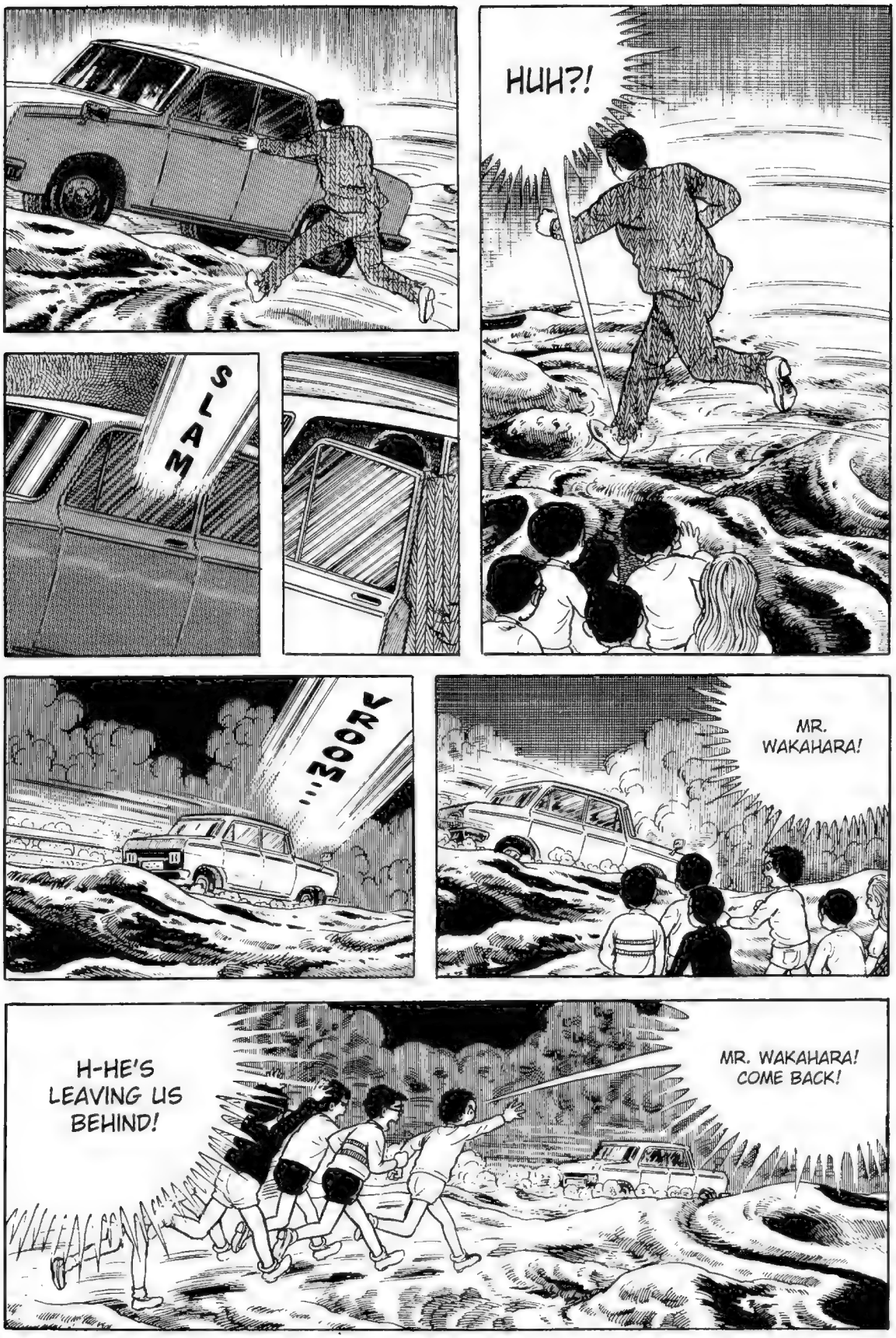
HUFF HUFF...
WH-WHO PUT THIS PLASTIC BAG ON YOUR FACE?!

GASP!

BUT THAT'S CRAZY!

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN!!

MR. WAKAHARA... WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

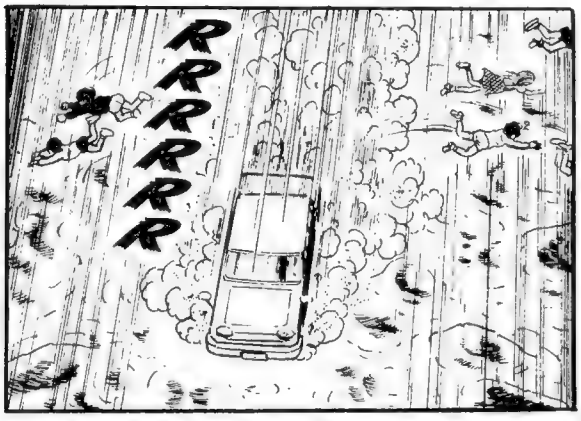

HUH?!
SLAM
VROOM...
MR. WAKAHARA!
H-HE'S LEAVING US BEHIND!
MR. WAKAHARA! COME BACK!

VWEEEN

SKREE

MR. WAKAHARA!

VRRR
WHOA!


RRRRRRR

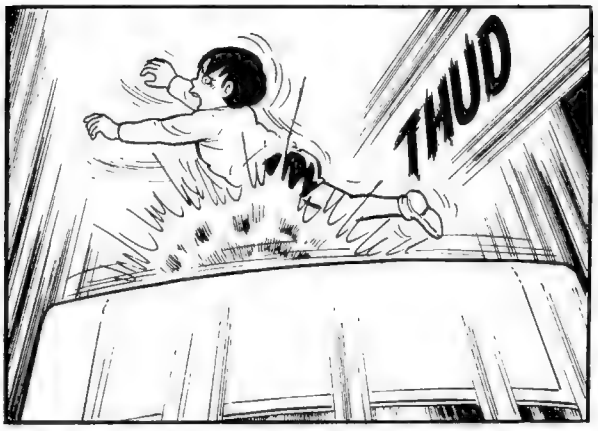
GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

SKREE

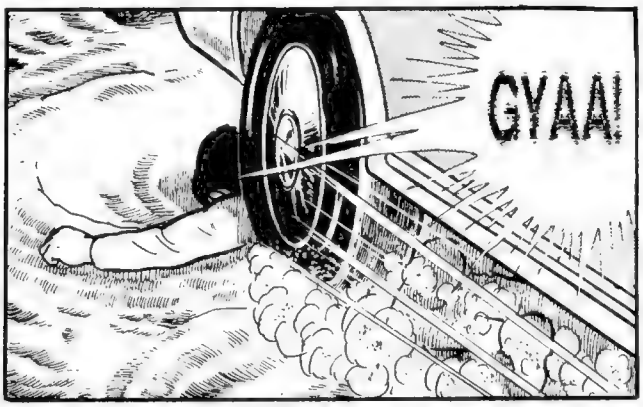
VRRROOOM
H-HE'S BACKING UP!

HE'S TRYING TO RUN US OVER!!

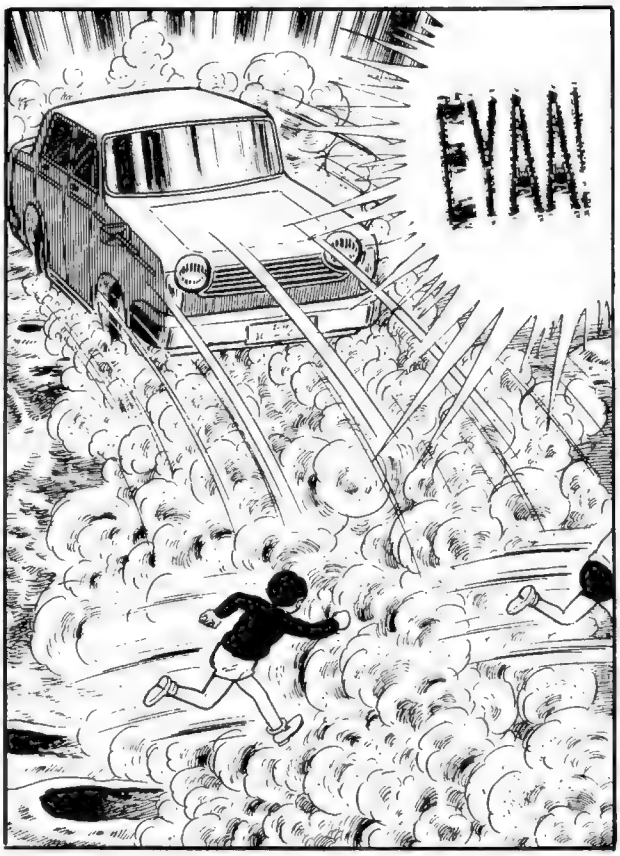
VRRROO
AGGHH!


THUD

HELP!!
HE'S COMING AFTER ME!
SKRR


GYAA!

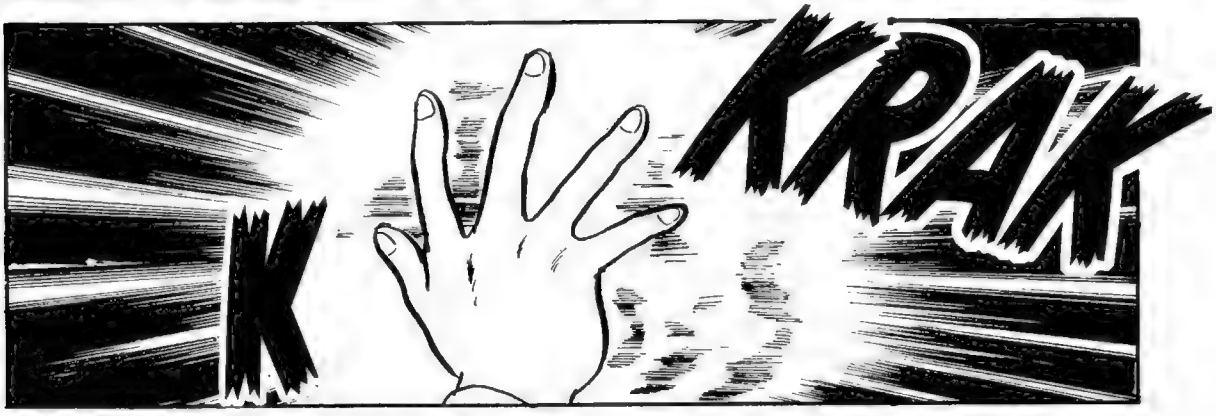
UNHH...

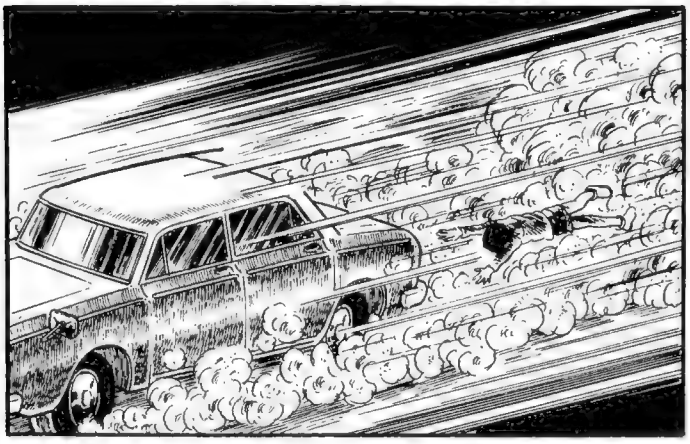

EYAA!

VRRRR

MR. WAKAHARA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SEINO!!

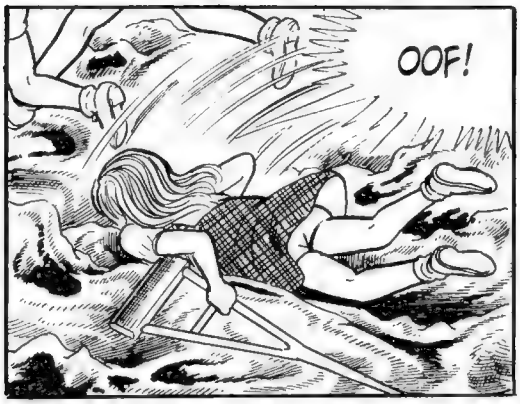
NOOO!
36 — 36


K
KRAK



AIEE!!

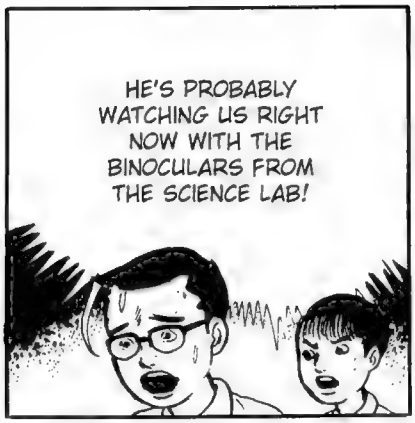
W-WE HAVE TO RUN!!


OOF!

I NEED SOME HELP!
WAIT, YOU GUYS!

NISHI!!

WE MUST HAVE RUN FOR HOURS.

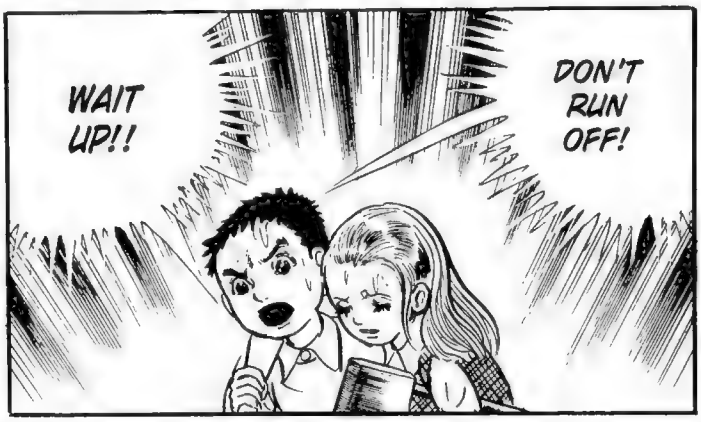

HE'S PROBABLY WATCHING US RIGHT NOW WITH THE BINOCULARS FROM THE SCIENCE LAB!

WE WON'T MAKE IT LIKE THIS. HE'S GOING TO CATCH UP!

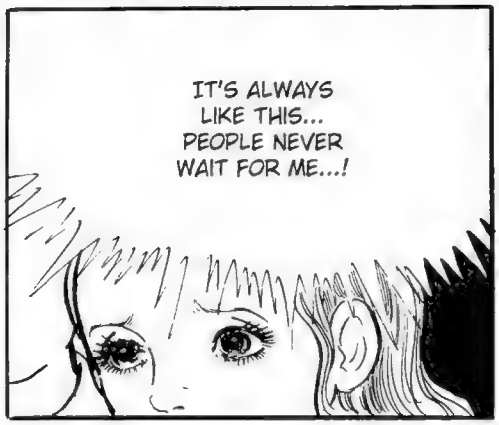
HUFF HUFF!

COME BACK!

HEY! HOLD ON!

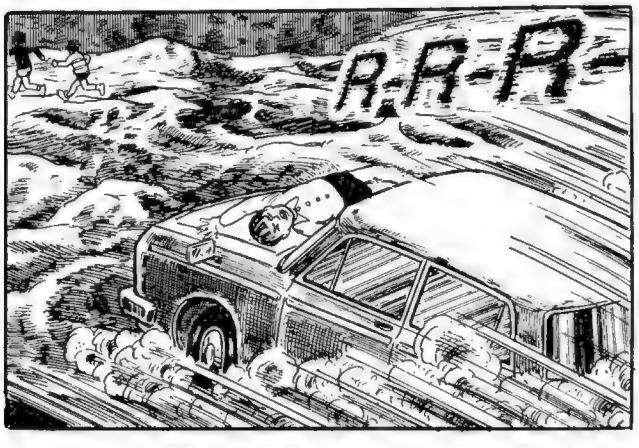

WAIT UP!!
DON'T RUN OFF!

I'LL STAY HERE BY MYSELF!
LEAVE ME HERE! PLEASE! YOU SHOULD RUN!


IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS... PEOPLE NEVER WAIT FOR ME...!

HOW ABOUT WALKING INSTEAD OF WHINING?
STOP
DON'T SAY THAT!
WE HAVE TO CATCH UP TO THEM!
...I'M SORRY.
GYAAA
GASP!
IT'S THEM!!

BAMM
VRRRMM


R-R-R-

AGGH!

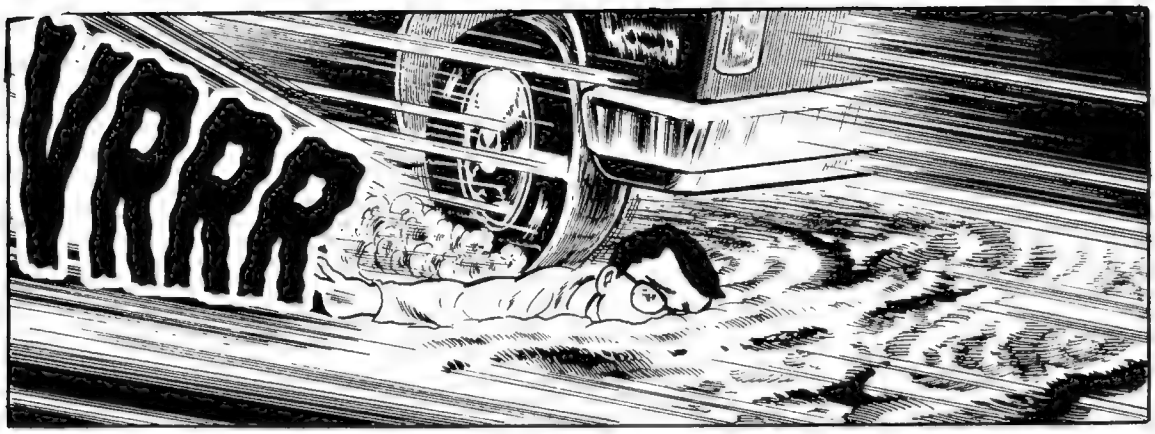
KRRRRR

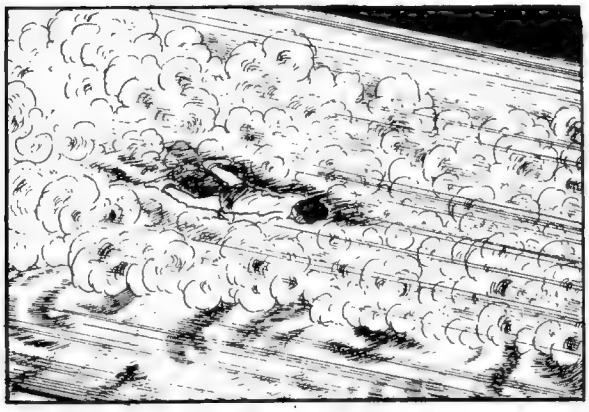
EEYAA!

VRRNNNNNN
SOMEBODY HELP ME!

THUD

KA BAM


VRRR

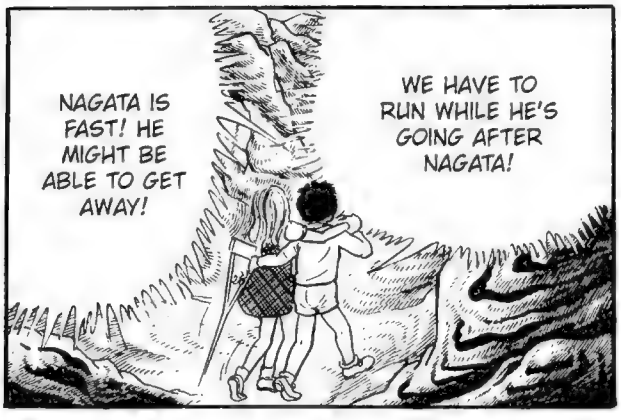


VRRROOOM

KRRR

SKRRRR

VRRRRR


NAGATA IS FAST! HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET AWAY!
WE HAVE TO RUN WHILE HE'S GOING AFTER NAGATA!

IF WE HADN'T BEEN LEFT BEHIND, WE WOULD'VE...!
HE WAS ALREADY AHEAD, WAITING FOR US WHERE IT WAS FLAT!

IT'S NO USE. HE CAN FOLLOW OUR TRACKS...!

SO WHAT!? WE HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING!

HE'LL FIND US NO MATTER WHAT!

OH NO! YOU'RE RIGHT!

HUFF!
HUFF!

I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE! PLEASE GO ON WITHOUT ME!

VRRRR...
HERE HE COMES. HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN NAGATA!

HE FOUND US!!

VRRRR

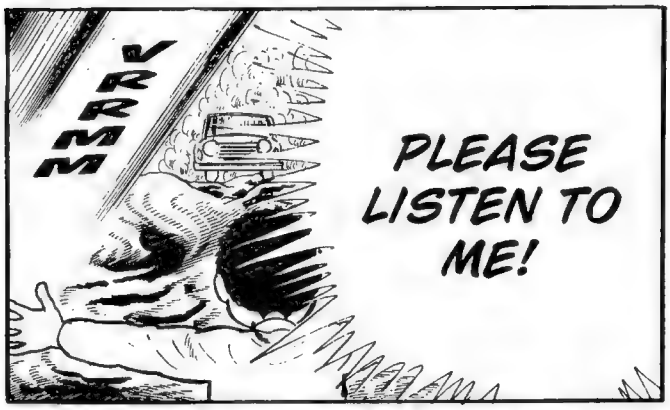
...RRRR
COME ON! CRAWL IF YOU HAVE TO!

VRRMMMM

PLEASE, IT'S ME, SHO TAKAMATSU!! PLEASE REMEMBER!
MR. WAKAHARA!

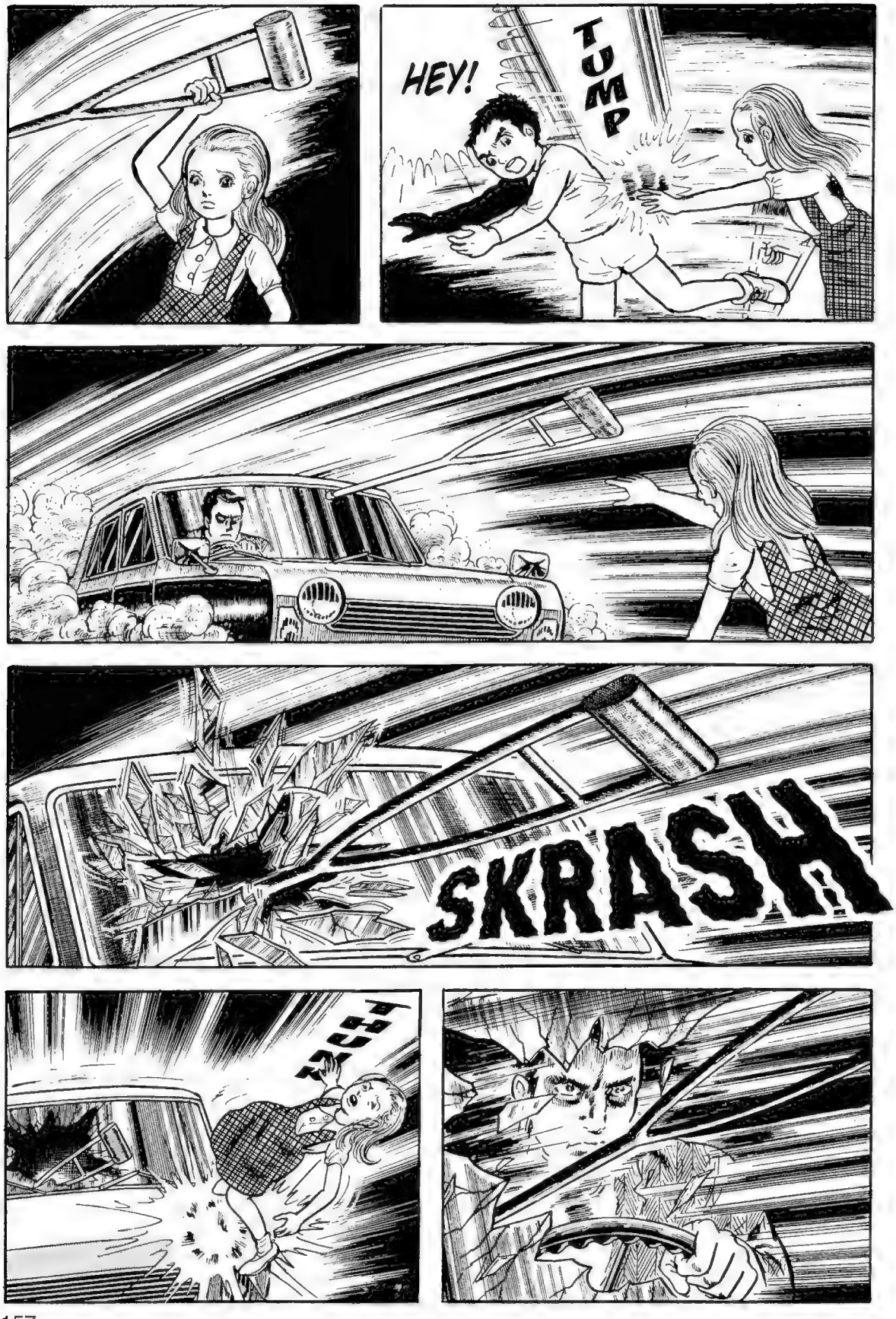
YOU SAID YOU'D BE OUR FATHER! YOU TOLD US WE HAD TO GET ALONG!

PLEASE BE YOURSELF AGAIN!
STOP THE CAR!


MRRM
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!

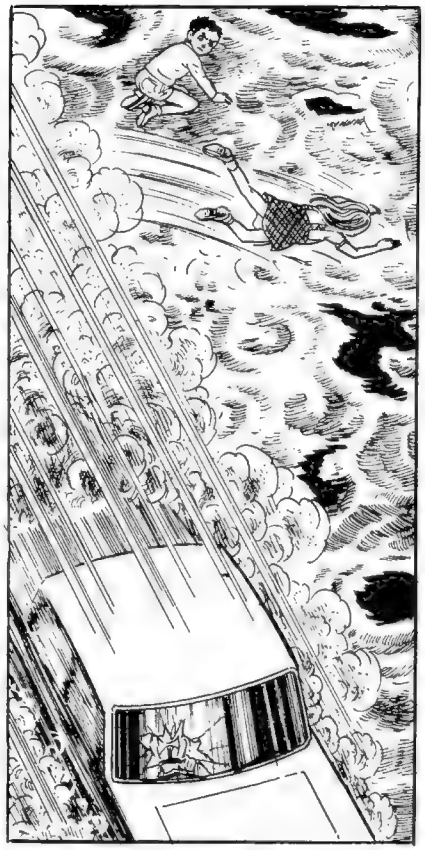
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ?!

RRMM
PLEASE!

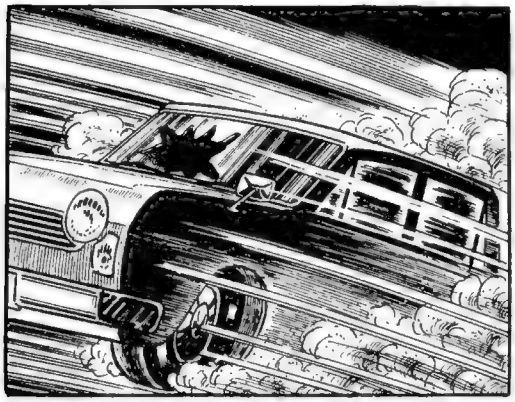

HEY!
JUMP
SKRASH
FUSH

GOOD...YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! YOU'RE JUST KNOCKED OUT!

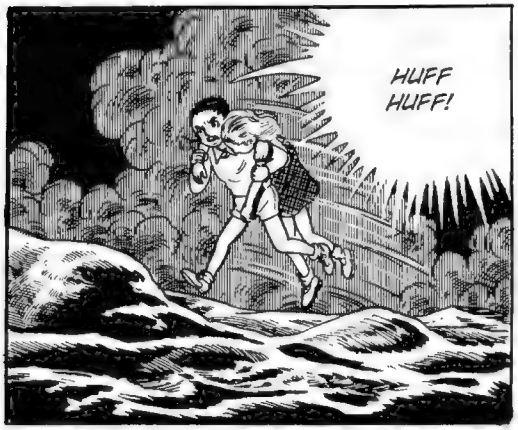
NISHI ...!

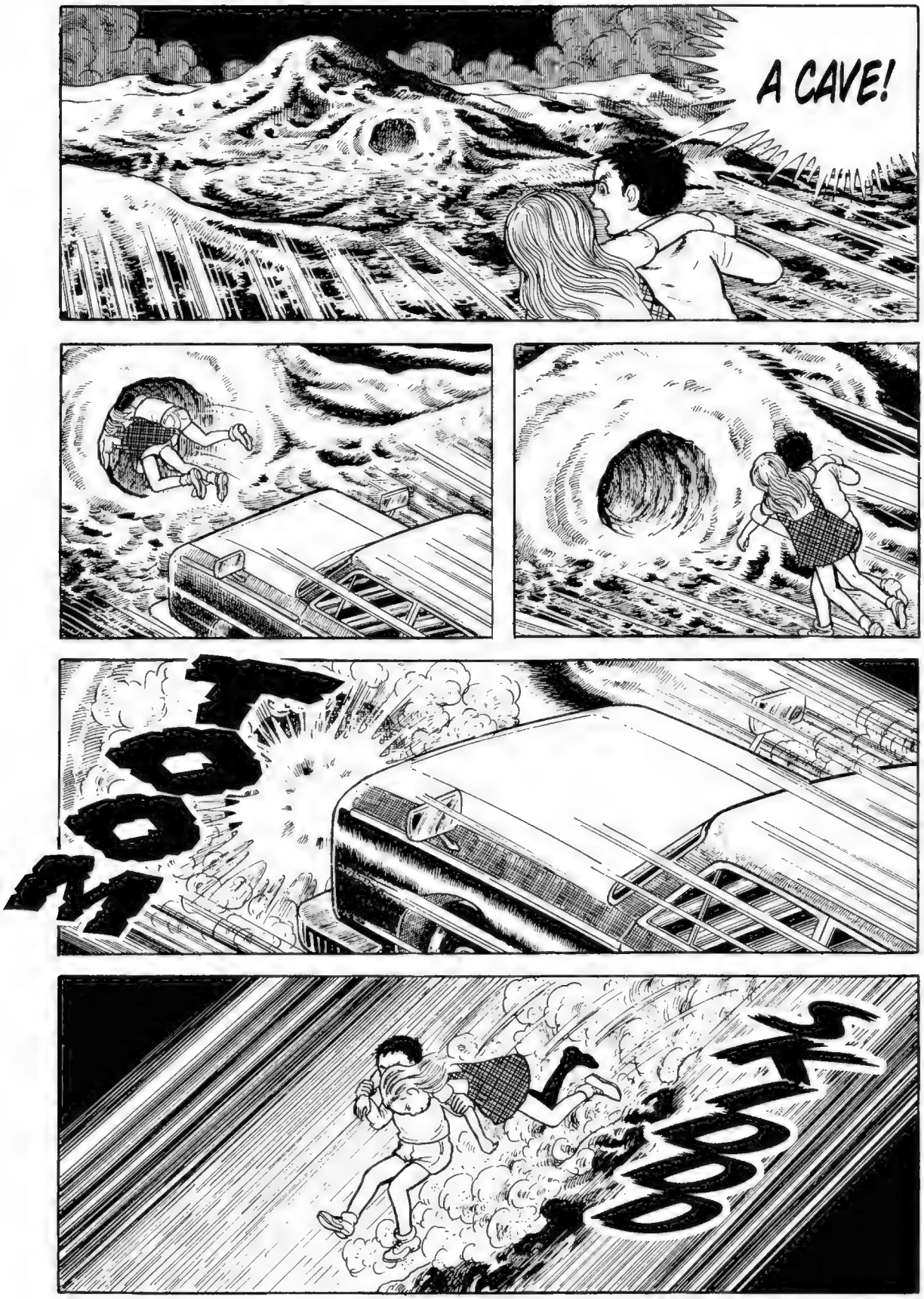


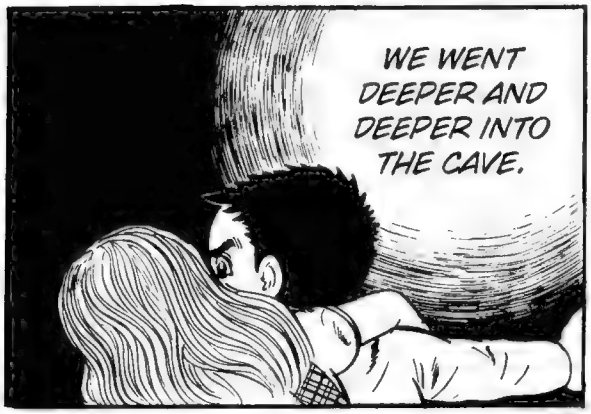
VRRR



AGGGH!
VRRMM

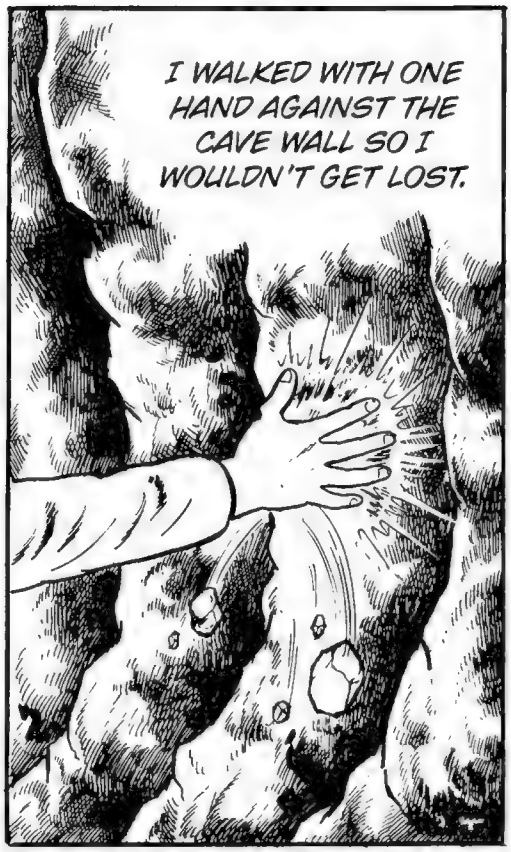

HUFF HUFF!


A CAVE!
WOOT
SKIDDD


WE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE CAVE.

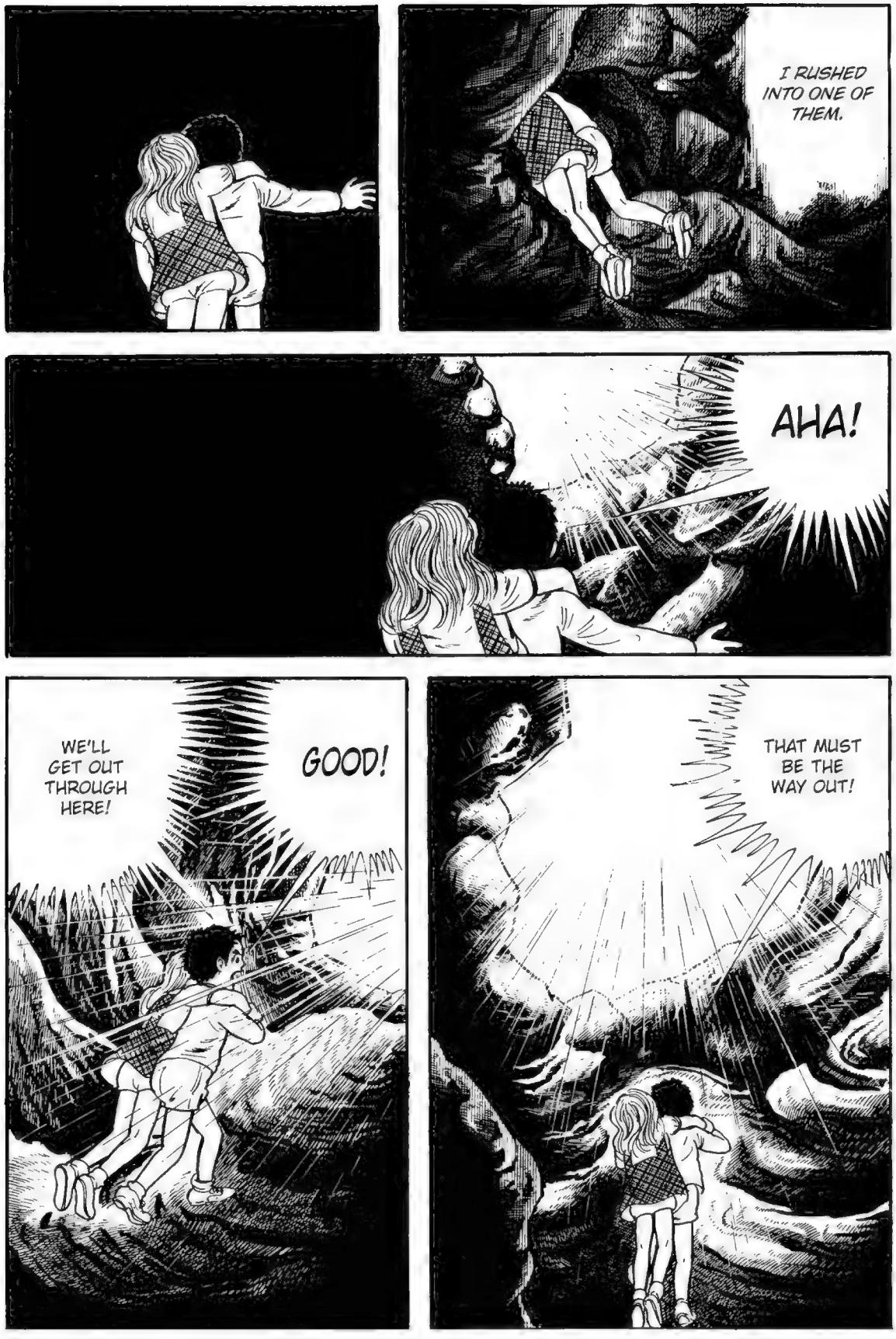
SKIDDD

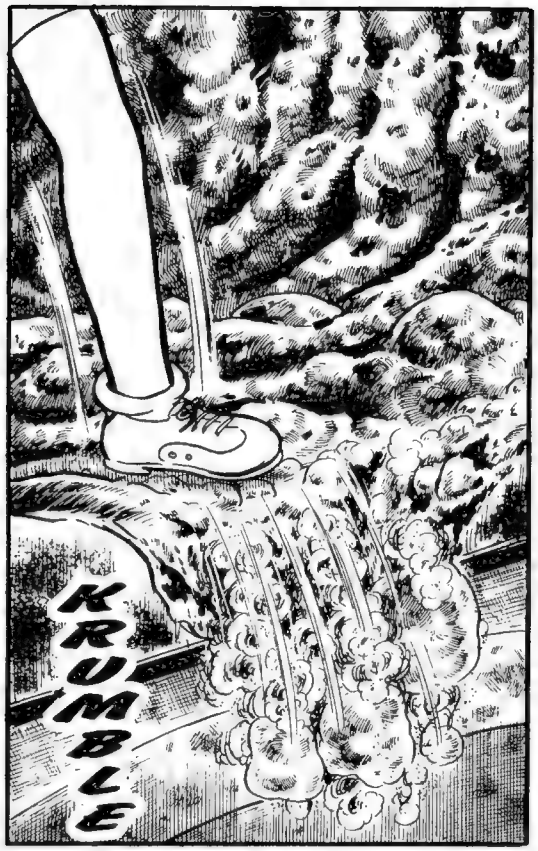
SOMETHING ABOUT THE WALL FELT UNNATURAL... LIKE THE CAVE WAS MANMADE.


I WALKED WITH ONE HAND AGAINST THE CAVE WALL SO I WOULDN'T GET LOST.

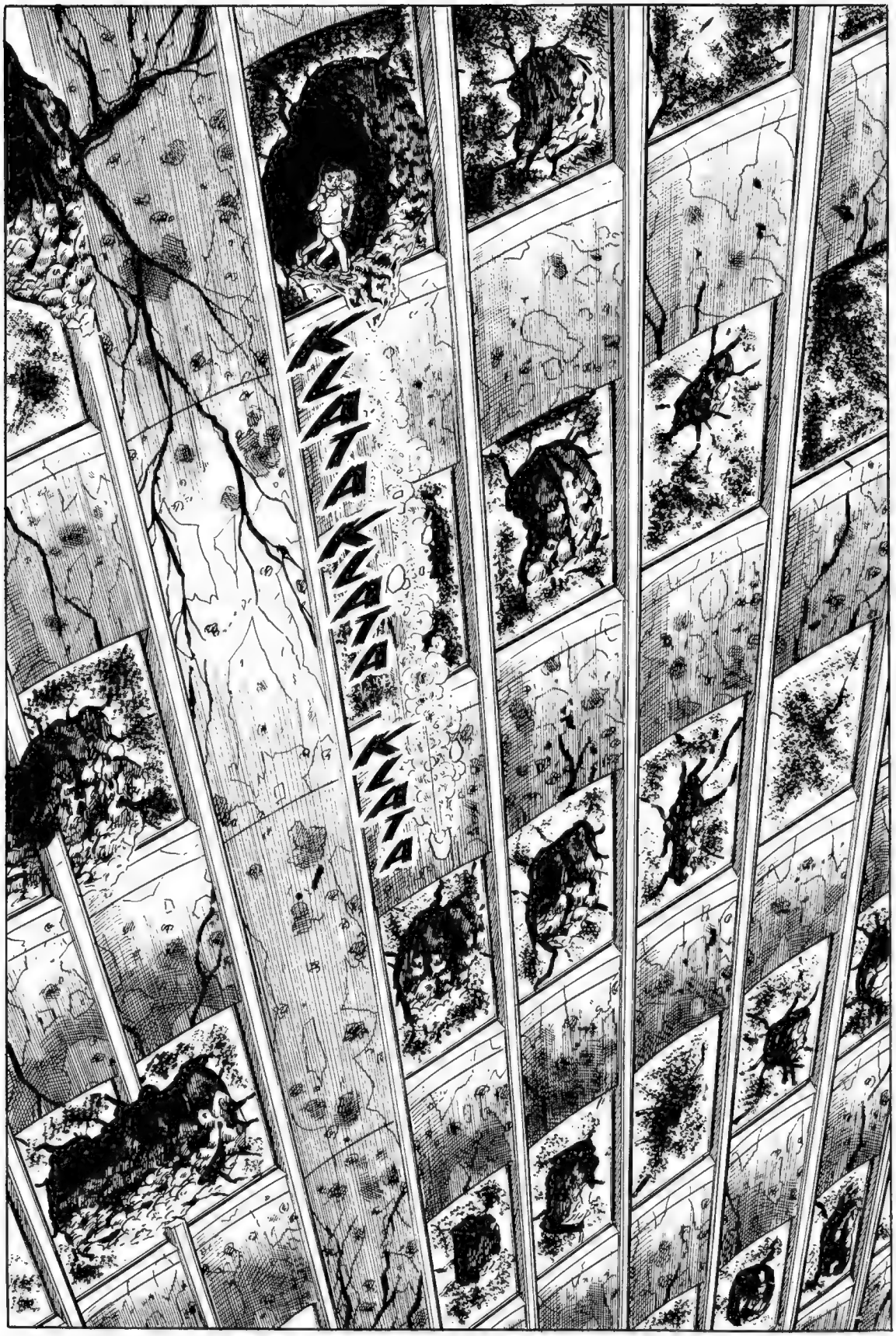
MR. WAKAHARA'S COMING AFTER US!
THAT'S HIS FLASHLIGHT!
WE NEARLY FELL, BUT WE MANAGED TO MAKE TWO TURNS.
IT'S A DEAD END!

KATMP
KATMP
HE'S COMING!
KATMP
KATMP
THERE'S A SIDE CAVE!
KATMP
I SUDDENLY MADE OUT A STRAIGHT ROW OF SEVERAL HOLES.


I RUSHED INTO ONE OF THEM.
AHA!
WE'LL GET OUT THROUGH HERE!
GOOD!
THAT MUST BE THE WAY OUT!

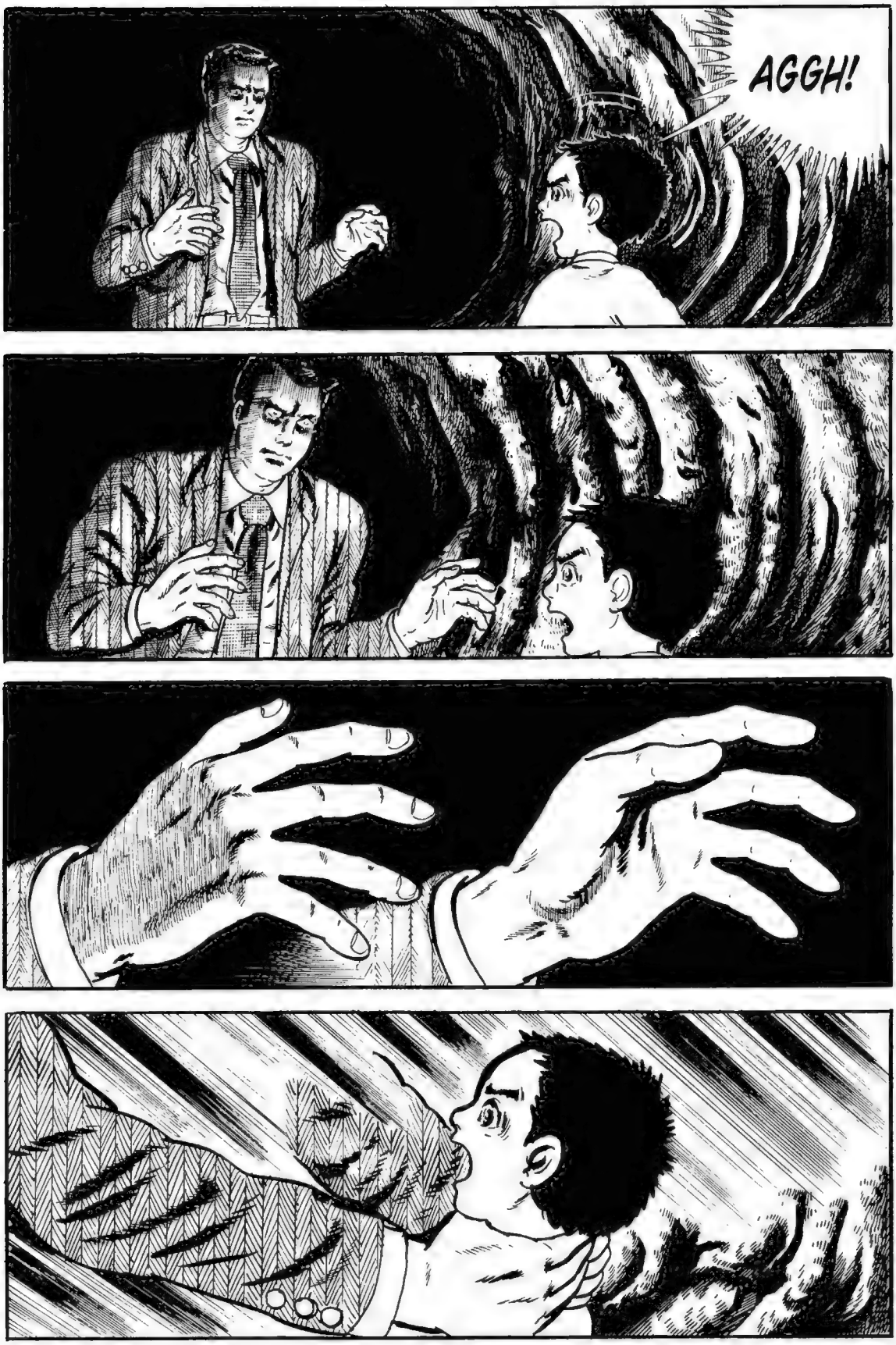

KRUMBLE

AH!
KLATA
KLATA


KLATA KLATA KLATA

MOM!

THUD

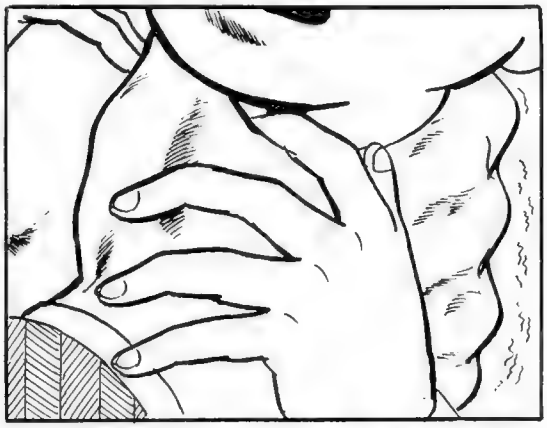

AGGH!

ARGH...
URGGH!

HELP
ME!
MOM!
MOM!

H-HELP!!

NNRRGH
...!



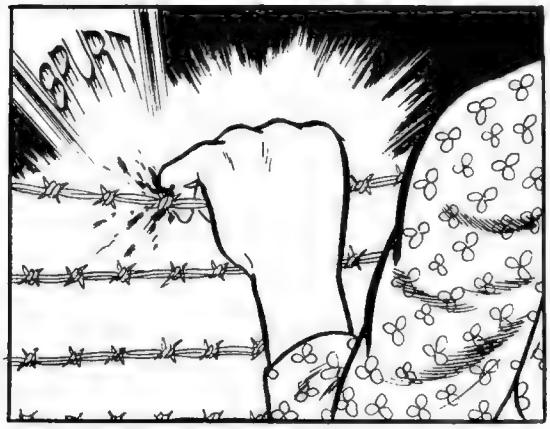
CHAPTER 9:
A MOTHER'S WISH

WE NEED YOU TO GO HOME AND AWAIT THEIR REPORT!
WE HAVE SCIENTISTS ON THE CASE, SO PLEASE CALM DOWN!
WILL EVERYONE PLEASE STAND BACK! DON'T GO NEAR THE FENCE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR SCHOOL?!
WHERE'S MY CHILD?!
SHO!!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
SHO!!

PLEASE COME HOME!!

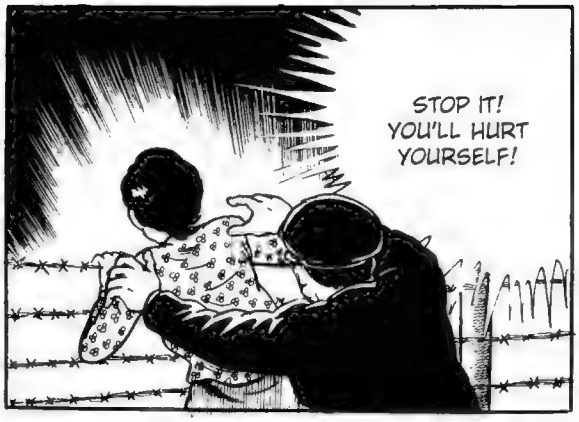
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE ARE YOU?

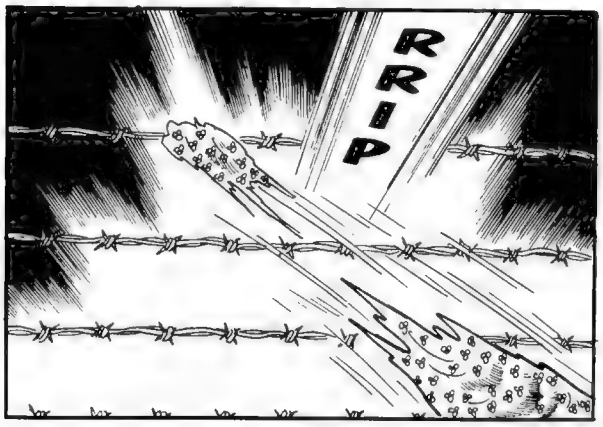
SHOJI!
KAZUNORI!
TOMOKO!


SPURT

HEY, STOP! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

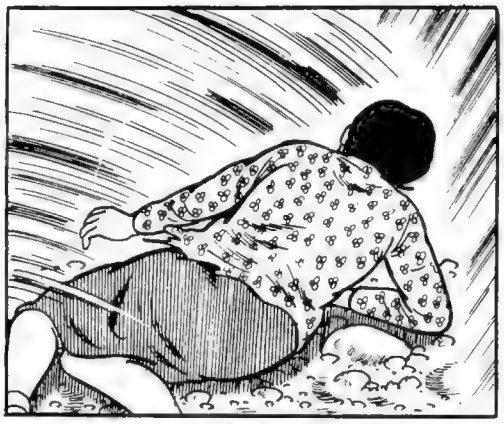
I NEED TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT HAPPENED!
LEAVE ME ALONE!

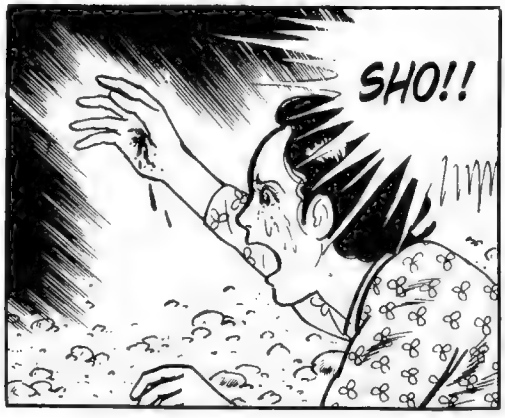

STOP IT! YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF!


RRIP

AHH!
I SAID, STOP!

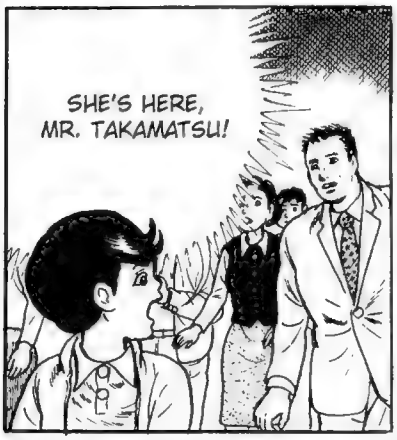
UNYAAH!




SHO!!

SOB...
SOB...
MRS. TAKAMATSU!

MRS. TAKAMATSU!


SHE'S HERE, MR. TAKAMATSU!

IT'S ME, SHINICHI!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!!

EMIKO!!

SHO...!

BUT... SHO!

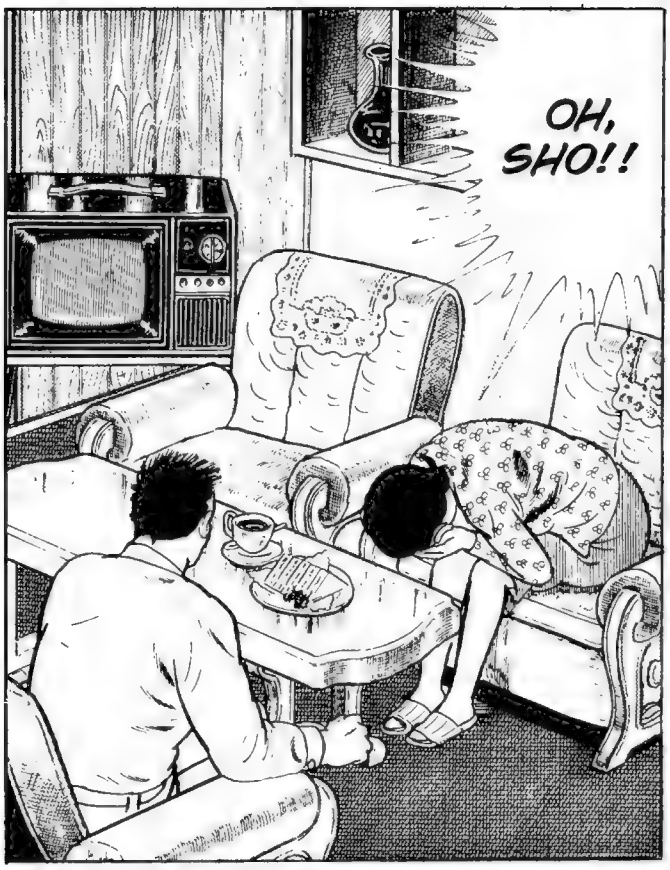
SHAAA

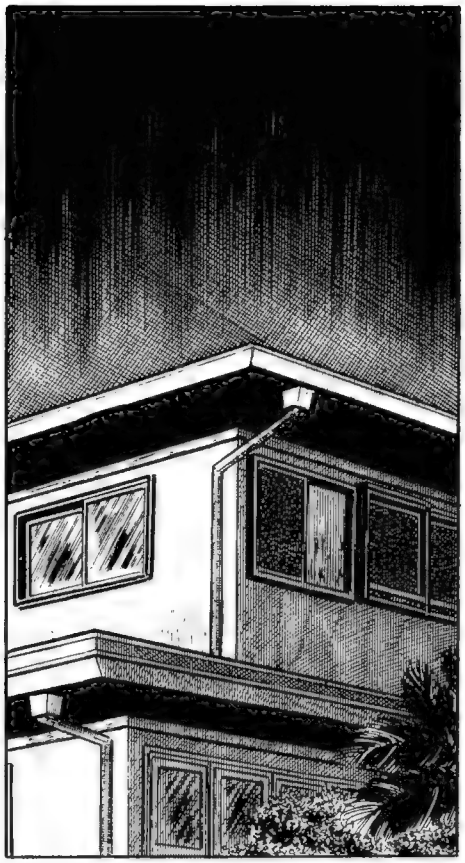
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LOST A CHILD.

IT'S DARK. LET'S GO HOME.
IT'S RAINING.

THANK YOU, SHINICHI.

YES, MR. TAKAMATSU.
YOU SHOULD HURRY BACK HOME. YOUR MOTHER MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.


OH, SHO!!



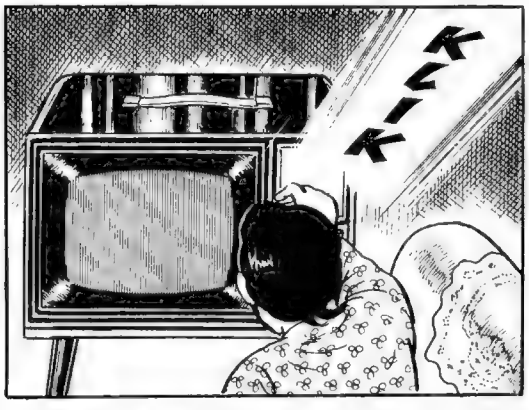
IT ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE I TOLD HIM NOT TO COME BACK!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

YOU HAVE TO EAT! YOU HAVEN'T HAD A THING TO EAT ALL DAY!

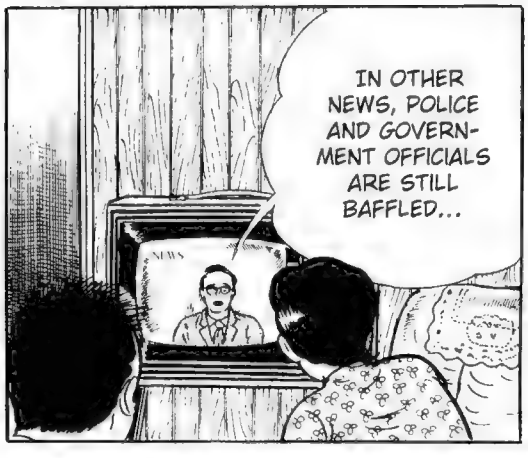
DON'T BE SILLY. THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!

I'M TOO SICK TO THINK OF FOOD!
I CAN'T EAT!

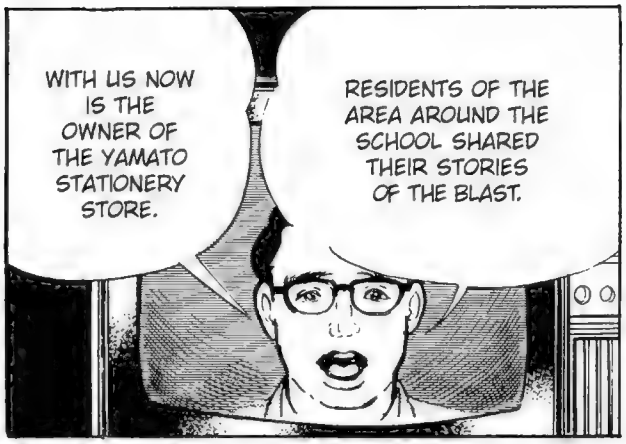
PLEASE EAT SOMETHING!

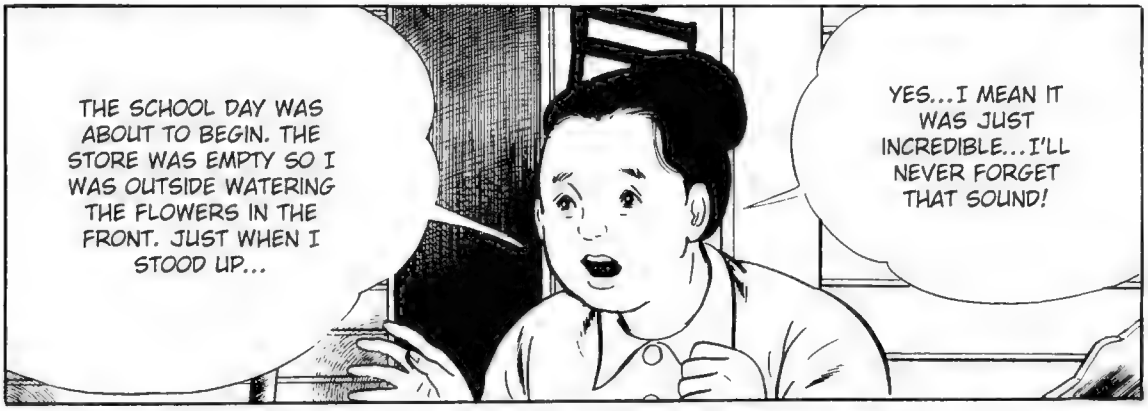

KICK

THEY MIGHT HAVE MORE NEWS ABOUT THE SCHOOL!
OH! WE HAVE TO TURN ON THE TV!!


IN OTHER NEWS, POLICE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE STILL BAFFLED...
NEWS

...BY THE EXPLOSION AT YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHICH LEFT OVER 800 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MISSING.
NEWS


WITH US NOW IS THE OWNER OF THE YAMATO STATIONERY STORE.
RESIDENTS OF THE AREA AROUND THE SCHOOL SHARED THEIR STORIES OF THE BLAST.

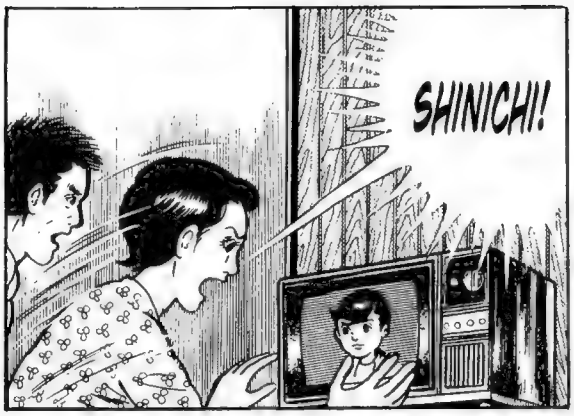

THE SCHOOL DAY WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN. THE STORE WAS EMPTY SO I WAS OUTSIDE WATERING THE FLOWERS IN THE FRONT. JUST WHEN I STOOD UP...
YES...I MEAN IT WAS JUST INCREDIBLE...I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SOUND!

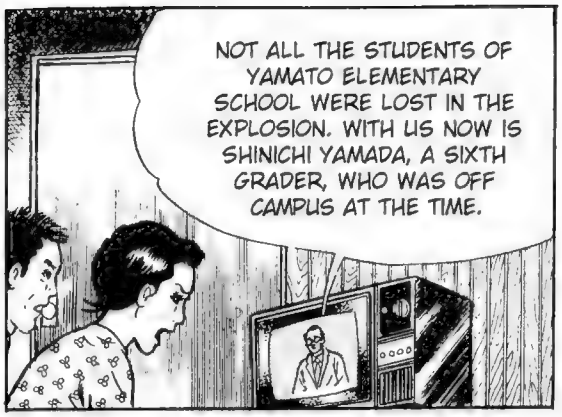
AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS LYING DOWN AND I COULDN'T MOVE.

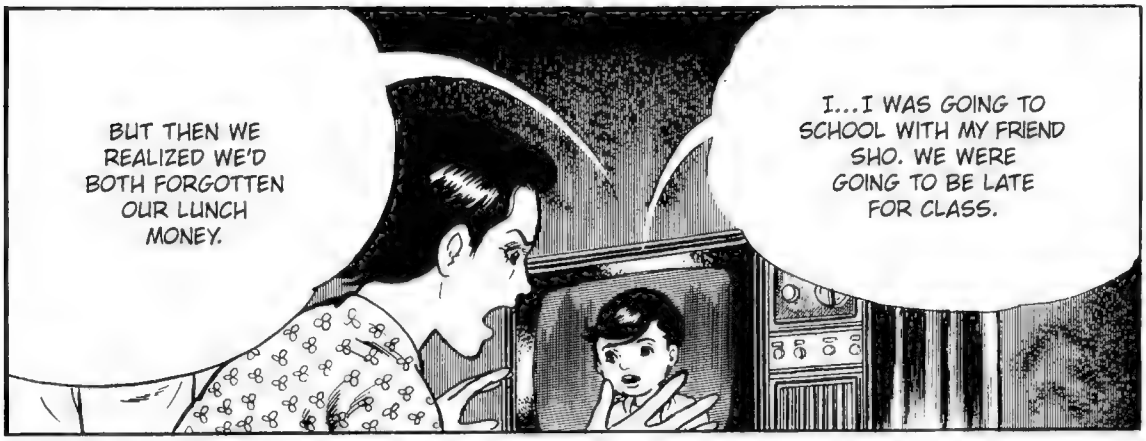
THERE WAS THE SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION AND THE GROUND SHOOK...

LOOK, IT SHATTERED MY WINDOWS!

WE ALSO SPOKE TO MR. TADA, A TAXI DRIVER WHO WAS PASSING BY THE SCHOOL WHEN THE BLAST OCCURRED.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS WHAT. NOBODY WAS HURT, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE KIDS...
THERE WAS A HUGE EXPLOSION AND A TREMOR. I LOST CONTROL OF MY CAR AND CRASHED.
THE SCHOOL JUST BLEW APART.
I WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL! IT HAPPENED RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
I'M STILL DEAF IN THE EAR ON THIS SIDE.
...AND FOUR ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO DIED OF SHOCK.
SO FAR WE HAVE CONFIRMED TWO DEATHS FROM THE BLAST...
IT WAS INSTANTANEOUS, IT JUST FLEW APART!







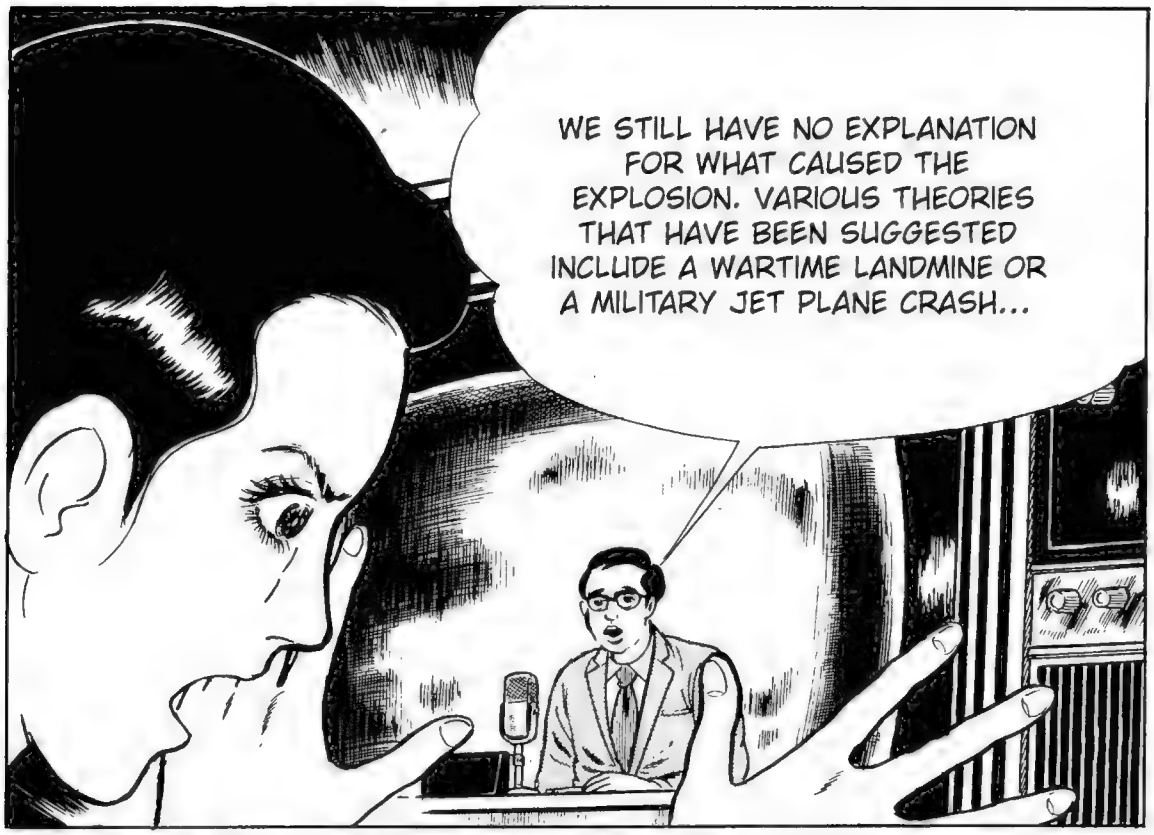
*SIGN=YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IT WAS ON THE GROUND!

I WISH I'D MADE SHO GO BACK WITH ME.

SHINICHI!

WHY DID *YOU* LIVE AND SHO DIE?!


WE STILL HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION. VARIOUS THEORIES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED INCLUDE A WARTIME LANDMINE OR A MILITARY JET PLANE CRASH...

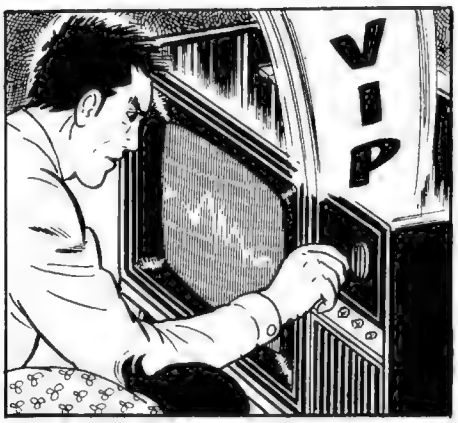
W-WE NOW HAVE AN UPDATE...THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THOSE MISSING FROM YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAS REACHED 862.

BUT THE... ASSUMPTION...OF ALL THOSE WE HAVE TALKED TO IS THAT THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY ARE...
BIZARRELY, NOT A SINGLE PIECE OF DEBRIS FROM THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN FOUND. WE HAVE NO IDEA IF IT WILL EVER BE POSSIBLE TO...CONFIRM...THE IDENTITIES OF THE MISSING...

DON'T SAY SHO'S DEAD!
BAM
BAM

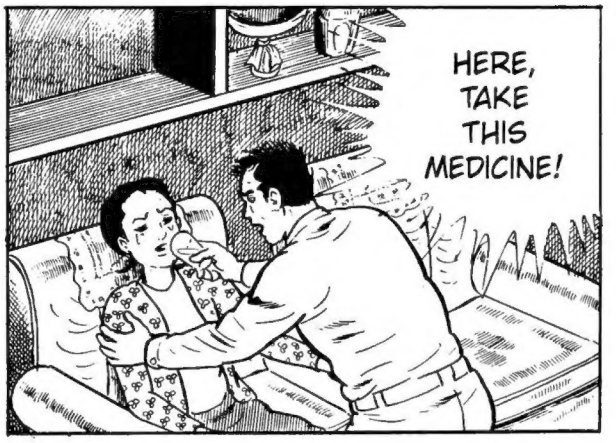
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR!

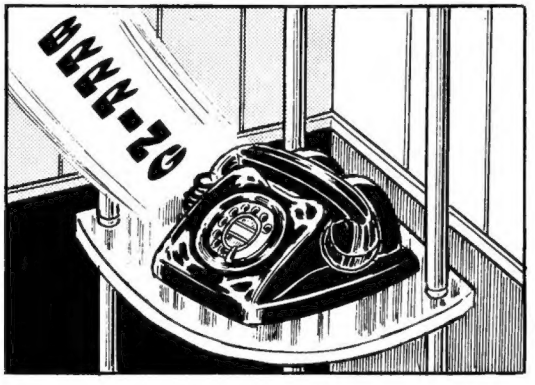
EMIKO, PLEASE!

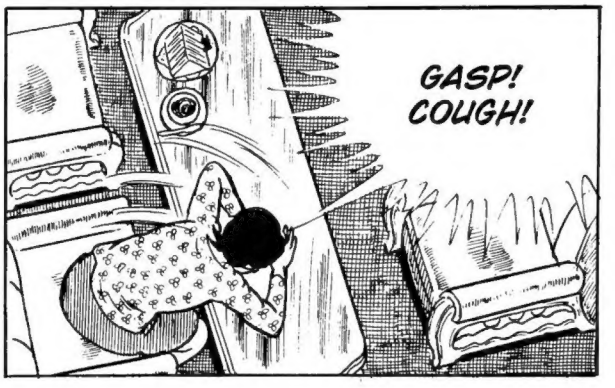

VIP

EMIKO, STOP IT!
NO! NO! HE CAN'T BE DEAD!

NNHH...!


HERE, TAKE THIS MEDICINE!


BRRR-ZO


GASP! COUGH!

BRRR-ZO

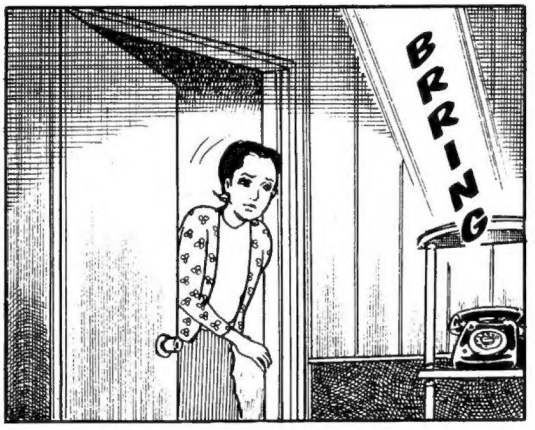
BRRR-ZO

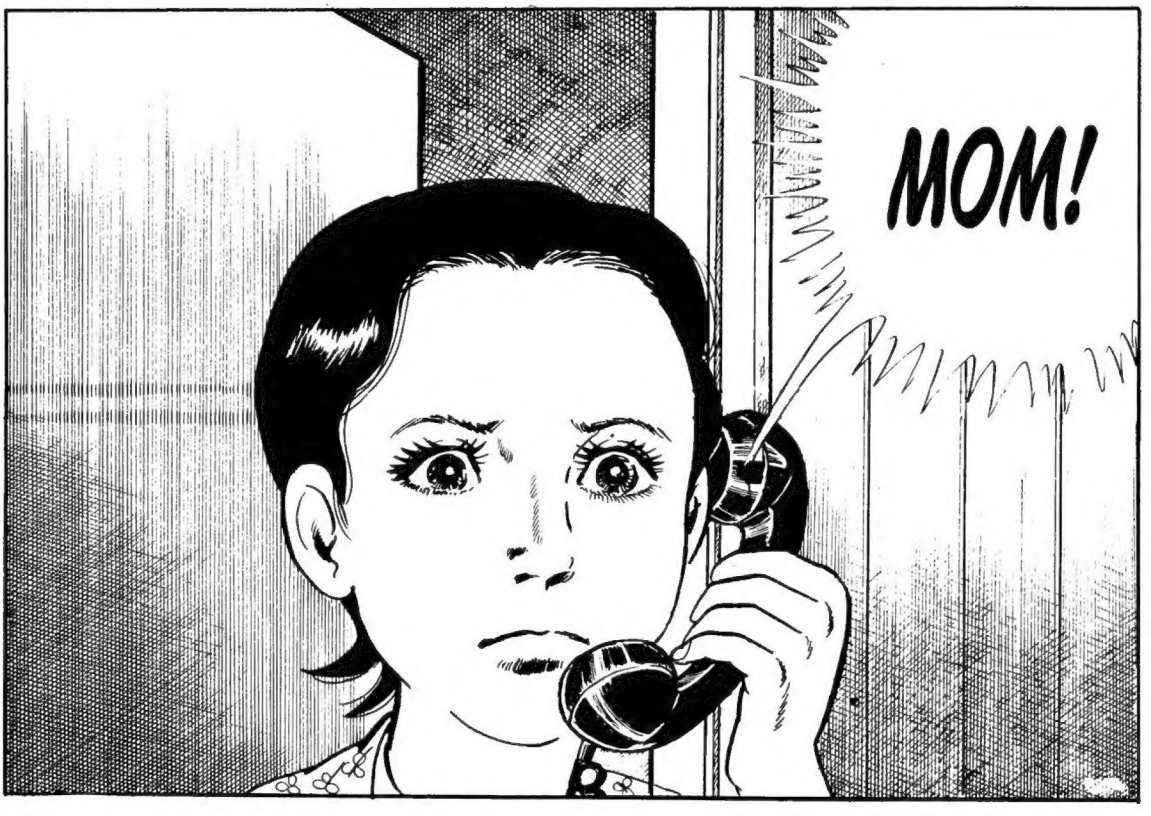
BRRRING

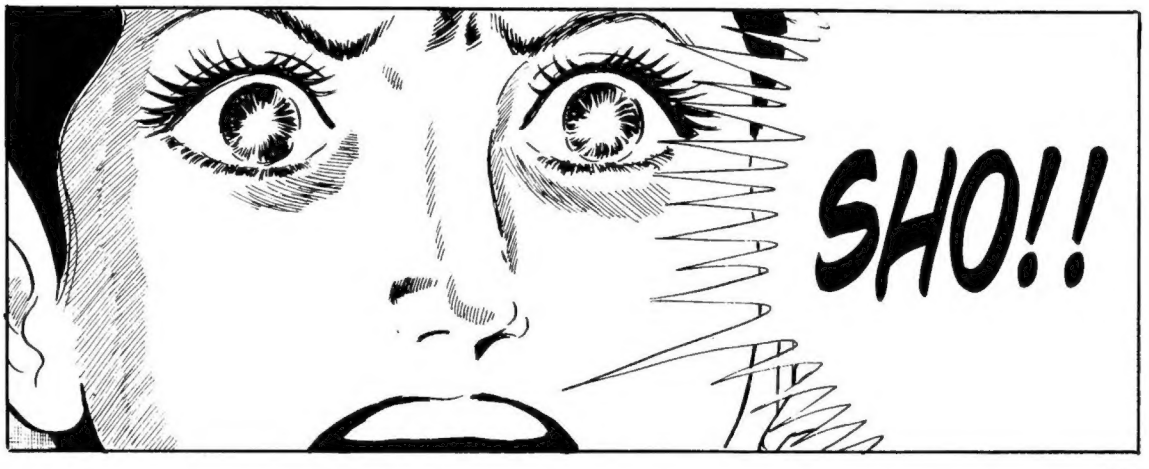
I-I'LL GET IT!

IT MIGHT BE THE POLICE. THEY SAID THEY WOULD CONTACT US IF THEY HAD ANY UPDATES.

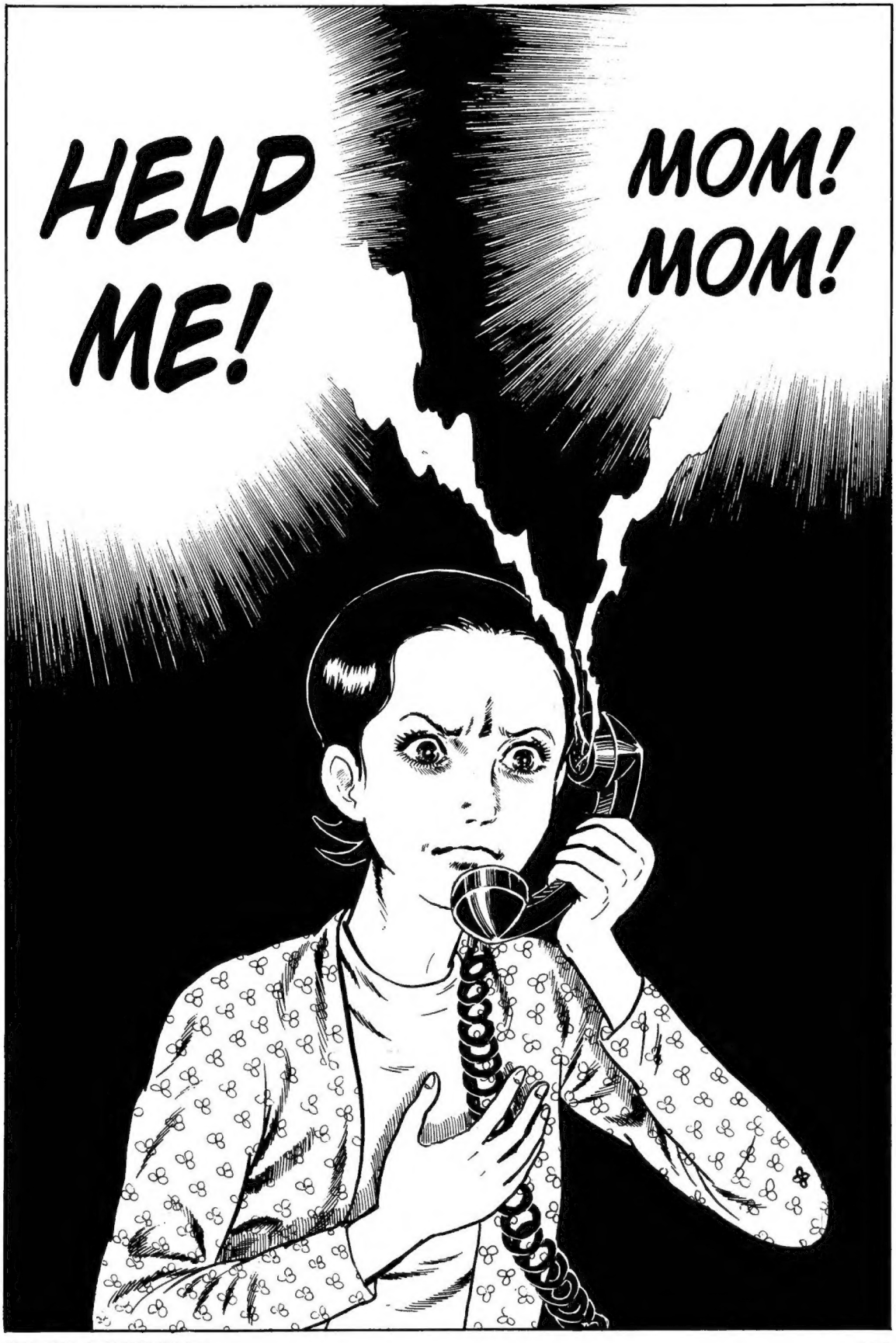
RRING


BRRING


MOM!


SHO!!

SHO, IS THAT YOU?!



TO BE CONTINUED...